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THE
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Original Letters,

WRITTEN

DURING THE REIGNS OF

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.

CAISTER TOWER.

LONDON,
Printed for G. G. J. and J. Robinson, in Pater-noster-Row.
1787.

From a Painting on Glass in the Dominican Church at St. Omer's.

ORIGINAL LETTERS,

Written during the REIGNS of

HENRY VI. EDWARD IV.

AND

RICHARD III.

By various Perſons of RANK or CONSEQUENCE;

CONTAINING

Many curious ANECDOTES, relative to that turbulent and bloody, but hitherto dark, PERIOD of our HISTORY;

93653
ac.

AND

Elucidating, not only PUBLIC MATTERS of STATE, but likewiſe the PRIVATE MANNERS of the AGE:

Digeſted in CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER;

WITH

NOTES, Hiſtorical and Explanatory;

AND

Authenticated by Engravings of AUTOGRAPHS, FAC SIMILES, PAPER-MARKS, and SEALS.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

By JOHN FENN, Eſq. M.A. and F.A.S.

"Tempora mutantur."
"Litera ſcripta manet."

THE SECOND EDITION, WITH ADDITIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

VOL. II.

LONDON,
Printed for G. G. J. and J. ROBINSON, in Pater-noſter-Row.
MDCCLXXXVII.

00093653

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

EDWARD IV.

1468 - - - - - - 1483.
8 - - - - - - 23 E. IV.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

LETTER XIII.

To my ryght reu'end and worchepfull Modyr Margaret Paſton dwellyng at Caſter be thys delyu'yd in haſt.

RYTH reu'end and worchepfull Modyr I recom'and me on to you as humbylly as I can thynk deſyryng moſt hertly to her of you[r] welfare and herts eſe whyche I pray God ſend yow as haſtyly as eny hert can thynk Ples yt yow to wete y[t] at the makyng of thys byll my brodyr and I and all ou[r] felawſhep wer in good helle blyſſyd be God As for the gydyng her in thys contre it is as worchepfull as all the world can devyſe it and ther wer neu' [1] englyſhe men had ſo good cher owt of Inglong that eu' I herd of.

As for tydyngs her but if it be of the feſt I can non ſend yow ſavyng y[t] my Lady [2] Margaret was mary' [illegible] laſt paſt at

We have in this Letter a moſt curious and authenti Marriage of
Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, with Margaret, rd Plantage-
net, Duke of York, and ſiſter of Edward IV. and of the ns exhibited
at Bruges in honour of it, written by John Paſton, (P eye-witneſs,
who, with his Brother Sir John Paſton, Knight, attende he Princeſs.

The

EDWARD IV.

LETTER XXIII.

To my right reverend and worſhipful Mother, Margaret Paſton, dwelling at Caſter, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Mother, I recommend me unto you as humbly as I can think, deſiring moſt heartily to hear of your welfare and heart's eaſe, which I pray God ſend you as haſtily as any heart can think.

Pleaſe it you to weet, that at the making of this bill, my Brother, and I, and all our Fellowſhip, were in good heele [*health*], bleſſed be God.

As for the Guiding here in this Country, it is as worſhipful as all the world can deviſe, and there were never [1] Engliſhmen had ſo good chear out of England, that ever I heard of.

As for Tidings here, but if [*unleſs*] it be of the Feaſt, I can none ſend you; ſaving, that my Lady [2] Margaret was married

The Deſcription here given affords us an high idea of the Splendour of the Court of the Duke, and of the Politeneſs of the Courtiers.

[1] This is the opinion of a true Engliſhman.

[2] Margaret Plantagenet, ſiſter of Edward IV. according to this Account, was married on Sunday the 3d of July, 1468, 8 E. IV. For a more particular Hiſtory of this Princeſs and the Duke, the Reader is referred to the Deſcription of the Plate wherein they are both repreſented.

at a towne y^t is callyd the Dame iij myle owt of [3] Brugys at v of the clok in the mornȳg and ſche was browt the ſame day to Bruggys to hyr dener and ther ſche was receyvyd as worchepfully as all the world cowd devyſe as w^t preſeſſion w^t Ladys and Lordys beſt beſeyn of eny pepyll that ever I ſye or herd of many Pagentys wer pleyed in hyr wey in Bryggys to hyr wel comyng the beſt y^t eu' I ſye And the ſame Sonday my Lord the [4] Baſtard took upon hym to anſwere xxiiij knyts and Gentylmen w^t in viij dayes at Joſtys of peſe and when y^t they wer anſweryd they xxiiij and hym ſelve ſchold torney w^t othyr xxv the next day aftyr whyche is on monday next comȳg and they that have joſtyd w^t hym into thys day have ben as rychely beſeyn and hymſelve alſo as clothe of gold and ſylk and ſylvyr and goldſmyths werk myght mak hem for of ſyche ger and gold and perle and ſtanys they of the Dwkys coort neythyr Gentylmen nor Gentylwomen they want non for w^t owt y^t they have it by wyſhys by my trowthe I herd nevyr of ſo gret plente as ther is.

Thys day my Lord [5] Scalys juſtyd w^t a Lord of thys contre but not w^t the Baſtard for they mad promyſe at London that non of them bothe ſhold never dele w^t othyr in armys but the Baſtard was on' of the Lords y^t browt the Lord Scalys in to the feld

[3] A City and Port Town in Flanders.

[4] Anthony, Count de la Roche, called the Baſtard of Burgundy, was a natural Son of Duke Philip the Good, by Johanna of Prulles, famous for his wit, courage, and polite accompliſhments. He was born in 1421, and died in 1504.

[5] Anthony Widville, or Woodville, Lord Scales, &c. and afterwards Earl Rivers, Son of Sir Richard Widville, by Jaqueline of Luxemburgh, Ducheſs Dowager of Bedford,

on Sunday laſt paſt at a Town that is called The Dame, three miles out of [3] Bruges, at five of the clock in the morning; and ſhe was brought the ſame day to Bruges to her dinner; and there ſhe was received as worſhipfully as all the world could deſire; as with proceſſion with Ladies, and Lords, beſt beſeen of any people, that ever I ſaw or heard of. Many Pageants were played in her way in Bruges to her welcoming, the beſt that ever I ſaw; and the ſame day my Lord, [4] the Baſtard, took upon him to anſwer 24 Knights and Gentlemen, within 8 days at Juſts of Peace; and when that they were anſwered, they 24 and himſelf ſhould turney with other 25 the next day after, which is on Monday next coming; and they that have juſted with him into this day, have been as richly beſeen, and himſelf alſo, as cloth of Gold, and Silk, and Silver, and Goldſmiths work, might make them; for of ſuch Gear, and Gold, and Pearl, and Stones, they of the Duke's Court, neither Gentlemen nor Gentlewomen, they want none; for without [*unleſs*] that they have it by wiſhes, by my truth, I heard never of ſo great plenty as here is.

This day my Lord [5] Scales juſted with a Lord of this country, but not with the Baſtard; for they made *(a)* promiſe at London, that none of them both ſhould never deal with other in arms; but the Baſtard was one of the Lords, that brought the Lord

ford, and Brother of Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV. was born about 1441, and became the moſt diſtinguiſhed Warrior, Stateſman, and moſt learned Gentleman, of his time. In the 7 Edward IV. he challenged and vanquiſhed the Baſtard of Burgundy in a grand and ſolemn Juſt in Smithfield; at which time the promiſe mentioned in this Letter was made. This accompliſhed Nobleman was beheaded at Pomfret, in June 1483, by the command of the Protector, Richard, Duke of Glouceſter.

Scales

feld and of mysfortwne an horſe ſtrake my Lord Baſtard on the lege and hathe hurt hym ſo ſore that I can thynk he ſhalbe of no power to acomplyſhe up hys armys and that is gret pete for by my trowthe I trow God mad neu' a mor worchepfull knyt. And as for the Dwkys coort as of Lords Ladys and Gentylwomen Knyts Sqwyers and Gentylmen I hert neu' of non lyek to it ſave Kyng Artourys cort and by my trowthe I have no wyt nor remēbrans to wryte to yow half the worchep that is her but y^t^ lakyth as it comyth to mynd I ſhall tell yow when I come home whyche I tryſt to God ſhal not belong to for we depart owt of Brygys homward on twyſday next comyng and all folk y^t^ cam w^t^ my Lady of Burgoyn owt of Inglond except ſyche as ſhall abyd her ſtyll w^t^ hyr whyche I wot well ſhall be but fewe. We depart the ſoner for the [6] Dwk hathe word that the [7] frenſhe Kyng is p'poſyd to mak wer upon hym haſtyly and that he is w^t^in iiij or v dayis jorney of Brugys and the Dwk rydyth on twyſday next comyng forward to met w^t^ hym God geve hym good ſped and all hys for by my trowthe they are the goodlyeſt felawſhep the eu' I cam among and beſt can behave them and moſt lyek Gentylmen.

Othyr tydyngs have we non her but that the Dwke of [8] Som'ſet and all hys bands depertyd welbeſeyn owt of Brugys a day befor that my Lady the Dwches cam thedyr and they ſey her

[6] Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, was born in 1433, and was ſlain in battle, near Nancy, in Lorrain, in 1477.

[7] Charles VII. It is worthy of Remark how cautious the Writers of theſe times were not to give the title of King of France, to the Ruler of that Kingdom, but to ſtyle him the French King. In this place, (and I have obſerved it in others) the word "Kyng" (intending

c

Scales into the field; and of misfortune an horſe ſtruck my Lord Baſtard on the leg, and hath hurt him ſo ſore, that I can think he ſhall be of no power to accompliſh up his arms; and that is great pity, for by my truth I trow [*think*] God made never a more worſhipful Knight.

And as for the Duke's Court, as of Lords, Ladies and Gentlewomen, Knights, Eſquires, and Gentlemen, I heard never of none like to it, ſave King Arthur's Court. And by my truth, I have no wit nor remembrance to write to you, half the worſhip that is here; but what lacketh, as it cometh to mind I ſhall tell you, when I come home, which I truſt to God ſhall not be long tofore. We depart out of Bruges homeward on Tueſday next coming, and all Folk that came with my Lady of Burgoyn [*Burgundy*] out of England, except ſuch as ſhall abide here ſtill with her, which I wot [*know*] well ſhall be but few.

We depart the ſooner, for the [6] Duke hath word that the [7] French King is purpoſed to make war upon him haſtily, and that he is within four or five days journey of Bruges, and the Duke rideth, on Tueſday next coming, forward to meet with him; God give him good ſpeed, and all his; for by my truth they are the goodlieſt Fellowſhip that ever I came amongſt, and beſt can behave them, and moſt like Gentlemen.

Other Tidings have we none here, but that the Duke of [8] Somerſet, and all his Bands departed well beſeen out of Bruges a day before that my Lady the Ducheſs came thither, and they

(intending to go on with, of France) was written without conſideration, and then, on obſerving it, immediately croſſed out, and "Frenſhe Kyng" put in its place.

[8] Edmund Beaufort, Duke of Somerſet, an Adherent to Henry VI. and his Queen Margaret, commanded at the battle of Tewkeſbury, in 1471; which being loſt, he fled to Sanctuary, whence he was taken and beheaded.

ſay

her that he is to Qwen Margaret y^t^ was and ſhal no mor come her ayen nor be holpyn by the Dwk.

No mor but I beſeche yow of you^r^ blyſſyng as lowly as I can whyche I beſeche yow forget not to geve me eu' day onys And Modyr I beſeche yow y^t^ ye wolbe good maſtras to my lytyll man and to ſe y^t^ he go to ſcole I ſent my coſyn Dawbeney v^s^ by Callys man for to bye for hym ſyche ger as he nedyth and modyr I pray yow thys byll may recomend me to my Suſtyrs bothe and to y^e^ Maſtyr my coſyn Dawbeney Syr Jamys S^r^ John Stylle and to pray hym to be good Maſtyr to lytyll [9] Jak and to lerne hym well and I pray yow y^t^ thys byll may recomand me to all you^r^ folkys and my wellwyllers.

And I pray God ſend yow you^r^ herts deſyr.

Wretyn at Bruggys the fryday next aftyr Seynt [10] Thom's.

Yo^r^. Sone and humbyll Serv̄nt,

12 by 11 ½.

J. Paſton, p^e^ ponger.

Paper Mark,
A Catharine Wheel.
Pl. x. N° 6.

The Seal is round, having a Fleur de Lys with an Annulet by the ſide of it.

LET-

[9] This Little John, whoſe ſchool Education, J. Paſton ſeems ſo anxious about, muſt have been born before 1464, and moſt probably died under age, if he was his Son, as Sir William Paſton, Knight, who as ſome pedigrees ſtate was born in 1464, ſtands in

ſay here, that he is to Queen Margaret that was, and ſhall no more come here again, nor be holpen by the Duke.

No more, but I beſeech you of your bleſſing as lowly as I can, which I beſeech you forget not to give me every day once; and, Mother, I beſeech you that ye will be good miſtreſs to my little man, and to ſee that he go to ſchool.

I ſent my Couſin Dawbeney 5ˢ by Calle's man, for to buy for him ſuch gear as he needeth: and, Mother, I pray you this bill may recommend me to my Siſters both, and to the Maſter, my Couſin Dawbeney, Sir James, Sir John Stylle, and to pray him to be good Maſter to little [9] Jack, and to learn him well; and I pray you that this bill may recommend me to all your Folks, and to my Well Willers; and I pray God ſend you your heart's deſire.

Written at Bruges the Friday next after Saint [10] Thomas.

Your Son and humble Servant,

J. PASTON, the Younger.

Bruges,
Friday, 8th of July,
1468, 8 E. IV.

in the Pedigree as heir to his Father; but I rather think that J. Paſton had not been married at this time, and that this "lytyll man" was not his ſon.

[10] This muſt mean either the 3d or 7th day of July, the one being the Tranſlation of St. Thomas the Apoſtle, the other of St. Thomas à Becket. I believe it means the latter.

LETTER XVII.

To my mooſt worſhupfull Maiſt' Sr. John Paſton knyght.

MY mooſt woorſhupfull and mooſt ſpéciall Maiſt' with all my ſ'vyce mooſt lowly I recomande unto your gode Maiſtirſhip beſechyng you mooſt tendirly to ſee me ſumwhat rewardid for my labour in the Grete Booke which I wright unto your ſeide gode Maiſtirſhip I have often tymes writyn to Pampyng accordyng to yor deſire to enſo'me you hou I have labourd in wrytyngs for you. And I ſee wele he ſpeke not to your Maiſt'ſhip of hit and God knowith I ly in r Seint warye at grete coſts and amongs right unreſonable aſkers, I movid this mat' to Sr. Thomas late and he tolde me he wolde move your Maiſtirſhip therein, which Sr. Thomas deſirid me to remembir wele what I have had in money at ſoondry tymes of hym.

(Then comes the Account, as ſtated more at large in the following Bill.)

And in eſpiall I beſeche you to ſende me for Almes oon of yor olde Gownes which will coũtirvale much of the p'myſſes I wote wele,

Before the invention of Printing, the number of Writers and Copiers was very great; moſt monaſteries and religious houſes having an office called a Scriptorium, wherein ſeveral Writers were almoſt conſtantly employed in copying Books on various ſubjects, Miſſals and Books of Pſalms, &c. richly and elegantly adorned with Illuminations, &c. Men of Fortune and Learning likewiſe occaſionally employed Copiers to tranſcribe Books for their Libraries.

W. Ebe-

LETTER XXIV.

To my moſt worſhipful Maſter, Sir John Paſton, Knight.

MY moſt worſhipful and moſt ſpecial Maſter, with all my ſervice, moſt lowly I recommend *(me)* unto your good Maſterſhip, beſeeching you moſt tenderly to ſee me ſomewhat rewarded for my labour in the Great Book which I wrote unto your ſaid good Maſterſhip; I have oftentimes written to Pampyng, according to your deſire, to inform you how I have laboured in writings for you, and I ſee well he ſpake not to your Maſterſhip of it; and God knoweth I lie in [1] Sanctuary at great coſts, and amongſt right unreaſonable aſkers.

I moved this matter to Sir Thomas *(Lewis)* lately, and he told me he would move your Maſterſhip therein, which Sir Thomas deſired me to remember well what I have had in money at ſundry times of him.

(Then comes the Account, as ſtated more at large in the following Bill.)

And in eſpecial I beſeech you to ſend me for Alms one of your old Gowns, which will countervail much of the premiſes I

W. Ebeſham, (Pl. v. N° 20.) was one of thoſe who purſued this employment, and wrote a good hand; he complains of poverty, and petitions to have his Account diſcharged.

One of the Articles in the bill is dated 30th of October 1468, 8 E. IV. what follows therefore was done after that day, ſo that perhaps the bill was not delivered, nor this Letter written, before the next year, 1469.

[1] Why he was in Sanctuary I know not, but it appears that it was expenſive being there

wele, and I ſhall be yours while I lyve and at yor comandement I have grete myſt of it God knows whom I beſeche p'f've you from all adu'ſite, I am ſumwhat acqueyntid with it.

Yor. verry mā,

W. Ebſh'm.

8 ¼ by 10 ¼.

Wheels, &c. are a part of the Paper Mark, the other Part is cut off.
Pl. x. N° 7.

* Folowyng apperith p'celly dyvers and ſoondry maner of Writyngs which I William Ebeſham have wreetyn for my gode and woorſhupfull Maiſtir Sr. John Paſton and what money I have Reſceyvid and what is unpaide.

	s.	d.
" ffirſt I did write to his Maiſt'ſhip a litill booke of Pheeſyk for which I had paide by Sir Thomas Leevys in Weſtm' - - - - - - - - - -		xx
" Itm I had for the wrytyng of half the Prevy ſeale of Pampyng - - - - - - - - - - - -		viij
" It' for the wrytynge of the ſeid hole [2] prevy ſeale of Sr. Thom's - - - - - - - - - -		ij
" Itm I wrote viij of the [2] Witneſſis in p'chement but aftir xiiijd a peece for which I was paide of Sr. Thomas - - - - - - - - - - - - -		x
" Itm while my ſeide Maiſt' was over the ſee in Midſom't'me Calle ſett me a warke to wryte two tymes the prevy ſeale in papir and then aft' cleerely in p'chement	iiij	viij

And

* We are here furniſhed with a curious Account of the Expences attending the tranſcribing of Books previous to the noble art of Printing. At this time the common wages of a Mechanic were with diet 4d. and without diet 5d. ½ or 6d. a day; we here ſee that a Writer received 2d. for writing a folio leaf, three of which he could with eaſe finiſh in a day, and

wot well; and I ſhall be yours while I live, and at your commandment; I have greatly miſſed of it God knows, whom I beſeech preſerve you from all adverſity; I am ſomewhat acquainted with it.

Your very man,
Wm. EBESHAM.

About 1469,
9 E. IV.

* Following appeareth, parcelly, divers and ſundry manner of writings, which I William Ebeſham have written for my good and worſhipful Maſter, Sir John Paſton, and what money I have received, and what is unpaid.

	s.	d.
"Firſt, I did write to his Maſterſhip a little Book of Phyſic, for which I had paid by Sir Thomas Lewis, in Weſtminſter - - - - - - - - - - - -		20
"Item, I had for the writing of half the Privy Seal, of Pampyng - - - - - - - - - - - -		8
"Item, for the writing of the ſaid whole [1] Privy Seal, of Sir Thomas - - - - - - - - -	2	
"Item, I wrote eight of the [2] Witneſſes in parchment but after 14d a-piece, for which I was paid of Sir Thomas - - - - - - - - - - - -	10	
"Item, while my ſaid Maſter was over the ſea in Midſummer term, Calle ſet me at work to write two times the Privy Seal in paper, and then after clearly in parchment - - - - - - - - - - - -	4	8

and I ſhould think that many quick writers at that time would fill four, five, or even ſix in a day, if ſo, the pay of theſe greatly exceeded that of common handicraft men.

[1] Some Grant, or other matter, which was to paſs the Privy Seal.

[2] The Depoſitions of Witneſſes.

And

	s.	d.
And alſo wrote the ſame tyme oon mo of the lengiſt Witneſſis and other dyvers and neceſſary wrytyngs for which he p'miſid me x^{s}. whereof I had of Calle but iiij^{s} viij^{d} car. v^{s} iiij^{d} - - - - - - - - -	v	iiij
" I reſceyvid of S^{r}. Th. at Weſtm' penultīo die 3 Oct. A° viij° - - - - - - - - - - -	iij	iiij
Itm I did write to quairs of papir of witneſſis eu'y quair conteynyng xiiij leves aft' ij^{d} a leff - - -	iiij	viij
" Itm as to the [4] Grete Booke - - - - - - -		
ffirſt for wrytyng of the Coronacon and other tretys of Knyghthode in that quaire which conteyneth a xiij levis and more ij^{d} a lef - - - - - - - -	ij	ij
" Itm for the tretys of Werre in iiij books which conteyneth lx levis aftir ij^{d} a leaff - - - - - -	x	
" Itm for [5] Othea piſtill, which conteyneth xliij leves - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	vij	ij
Itm for the Chalengs and the Acts of Armes which is xxviij^{ti} lefs - - - - - - - - - - -	iiij	viij
" Itm for de [6] Regīe p'ncipu' which conteyneth xlv^{ti} leves, aftir a peny a leef, which is right wele worth	iij	ix
" Itm for [7] Rubriſsheyng of all the booke	iij	iiij
	lxiij	v

[3] This exactly aſcertains the Date of this Receipt to be the 30th of October, 1468, 8 E. IV.

[4] This Great Book ſeems to have contained various Treatiſes.

[5] Othea means a Treatiſe on Wiſdom.

[6] De Regimine Principum.—A Treatiſe concerning the Government of Princes, and by being written for a penny each leaf, I ſuppoſe it was in quarto.

" S'm

	s.	d.
And alſo I wrote at the ſame time one or more of the longeſt Witneſſes, and other diverſe and neceſſary Writings, for which he promiſed me 10s (whereof I had of Calle but 4s. 8d.) due 5s. 4d. - - - - -	5	4
" Item, I received of Sir Thomas at Weſtminſter 30[3] October 8 E. IV. 1468 - - - - - - -	3	4
" Item, I did write two Quires of paper of Witneſſes, every Quire containing 14 leaves after 2d. a leaf - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	4	8
" Item, as to the [4] Great Book - - - - -		
Firſt, for writing of the Coronation; and other Treatiſes of Knighthood, in that quire which containeth a 13 leaves and more, 2d. a leaf - - -	2	2
" Item, for the Treatiſe of War in four books, which containeth 60 leaves after 2d. a leaf - -	10	
" Item, for [5] Othea, an Epiſtle, which containeth 43 leaves - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	7	2
" Item, for the Challenges, and the Acts of Arms which is 28 leaves - - - - - - - - - -	4	8
" Item, for De [6] Regimine Principum, which containeth 45 leaves, after 1 penny a leaf, which it is right well worth - - - - - - - - - -	3	9
" Item, for [7] Rubriſhing of all the Book - -	3	4
	63	5

[7] This either means ornamenting the whole with red Capital Letters, or writing the heads of the ſeveral Treatiſes or Chapters in red Letters.

	L.	S.	D.
" S'm reſt' - - -		xxij	iiij
* S'm non ſolut' - -		xlj	j
S'm To[l]. - - -	iij	iij	v

William Ebeſham.

8 ¼ by 11 ½
Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 1.

* " Und p'o m° libro ſcript' xxvij[s] cu' diu' chal." This in the Original follows " Sum' non ſol. 41[s]. 1[d]."

The following Account of Payments for Writing, &c. is extracted from an Original Quarto, M. S. in the Editor's poſſeſſion, containing
The various Expences of Sir John Howard, Knight, of Stoke by Neyland, in Suffolk, (afterwards Duke of Norfolk.) p. 136.

Item the vij[th] yere of Kynge Edward y[e] iiijth and y[e] xxviij day of July (1467.) My Maſt' rekened w[t] Thomas Lympno[r]. of Bury and my Maſt' peid hym

	S.	D.
For viij hole [1] Vynets - - - p'ſe y[e] vynett xij[d] - - - - -	viij	
It[m]. for xxj dī vynets - - - p'ſe y[e] dī vynett. iiij[d] - - - -	vij	
It' for Pſalmes Lettres [2] xv[c] and dī - - y[e] p'ſe of C iiij[d] - - -	v	ij
It' for p'ms Letters [3] lxiij[c] - - - - - - - p'ſe of a C j[d] - - -	v	iij

It'

LETTER XXI.

To my Worchypfull brother Sr. John Paſton be thys byll delyu'ed in haſt.

RYGTH Worchipfull brother I recomaund me onto you lettyng you to wytte that my Lorde [1] Stafford was made Erle of Deveneſchere apon Sonday and as for the Kyng as I underſtond

[1] Humphrey, Lord Stafford, was created Earl of Devonſhire, in May, 1469, and beheaded at Bridgewater, the 17th of Auguſt following, by command of the King, for abandoning

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
Sum received - - -		22	4
* Sum unpaid - - -		41	1
Sum Total £ -	3	3	5

WILLIAM EBESHAM.

It' for wrytynge of a quare and dī - - - p'ſe y^e quayr xx^d - -	ij	vj
It' for wrytenge of a Calender - - - - -		xij
It' for iij quayres of Velym p'ſe y^e quayr xx^d - - - -	v	
It' for notynge of v quayres and ij leves p'ſe of y^e [4] quayr viij -	iij	vij
It' for Capital Drawynge iij^c and dī y^e p'ſe - -		iij
It' for floryſhynge of Capytallis v^c - - - -		v
It' for byndynge of y^e [5] Boke - - - - -	xij	
The wyche p'cellis my Maſt^r paid hȳ y^is day and he is content.	l	ij

This is an Account of a Limner or Illuminator of Manuſcripts, who reſided at Bury.

[1] Borders, Flowers, or Flouriſhes at the beginning of a Book, Chapter, &c.

[2] xv^c and dī = 1500 and an half.

[3] lxiij^c = 6300.

[4] A Quire of Velum from this entry ſeems to conſiſt of four leaves, and his receiving only 3d. for noting two leaves might be accounted for, by the laſt leaf not being full; the Drawing and Flouriſhing of the Capital Letters ſeems very cheap.

[5] 12s. appears a great price for binding a Book, but it is ſo ſtated in the original account.

LETTER XXV.

To my worſhipful Brother, Sir John Paſton, be this bill delivered in haſte.

RIGHT worſhipful Brother, I recommend me unto you, letting you to weet, that my Lord [1] Stafford was made Earl of Devonſhire upon Sunday; and as for the King, as I

abandoning the Earl of Pembroke, before the Battle of Banbury; by which means the Rebels were victorious.

ſtond he departyt to [2] Walſynggame apon fryday com vij nygth and the Quene alſo, yf God ſend hyr good hele.

And as for the Kyng was apoyntyd to goo to Calys and now hyt ys pute of. And alſo as for the goyng to the See my Lord of Warwyke Schyppys gothe to the ſee as I underſtond non' other tydynggys I can non' wryte unto you but Jh'u have you in hys kepyng.

Wretyn at Wyndyſore on monday aft' Whytſonday in haſt, &c.

By yor. [3] brother,

James Hawte.

11 ¾ by 3 ¾.

[2] This muſt be on a Pilgrimage to our Lady of Walſingham, in Norfolk; for ſo great was the Fame of the Image of our Lady of Walſingham, in the Chapel of the Bleſſed Virgin there, that Foreigners of all Nations came on a Pilgrimage to her, inſomuch that her worſhippers ſeemed to equal thoſe of the Lady of Loretto in Italy.

She

LETTER XVI.

To the right reu'ent Sr. Henry [1] Spelman Recordor of the Cite of Norwich be this Letter deliu'ed.

RIGHT reu'ent Sr I recomaunde me to you pleſe it you to knowe this ſame day com to me the [2] Shirreve of Norff' hymſelf and tolde me that the [3] Quene ſhall be at Norwich

This Letter ſhews the attention, which the City of Norwich wiſhed to pay to the Queen on her reception, and during her reſidence there.

[1] Henry Spelman married Ela, Daughter and Coheir of William de Narburgh, and was the firſt of that family that ſettled at Narborough, in Norfolk.

up

underſtand, he departyt [*departs*] to [2] Walſingham upon Friday come ſevennight, and the Queen alſo, if God ſend her hele [*health*]. And as for the King, *(he)* was appointed for to go to Calais, and now it is put off.

And alſo as for the going to the Sea, my Lord of Warwick's Ships go to the Sea, as I underſtand. None other tidings I can none write unto you, but Jeſu have you in his keeping.

Written at Windſor on Monday after Whitſunday in haſte, &c.

By your [3] Brother,

JAMES HAWTE.

Whitſun Monday,
22d of May, 1469,
9 Ed. IV.

She flouriſhed till the Reformation, and then underwent the fate of other objects of ſuperſtition, being, in the year 1538, taken down, brought to Chelſea, and there burnt.

[3] I do not know why he calls Sir John Paſton his Brother; for Sir John certainly never married Anne Hawte, who poſſibly might be the Siſter of James. Pl. v. N° 21.

LETTER XXVI.

To the right reverend Sir Henry [1] *Spelman, Recorder of the City of Norwich, be this Letter delivered.*

RIGHT reverend Sir, I recommend me to you. Pleaſe it you to know this ſame day came to me the [2] Sheriff of Norfolk himſelf, and told me that the [3] Queen ſhall be at

[2] Roger Ree, Eſq. was Sheriff of Norfolk, in 1469.
[3] Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV.

up on [4] Tuyſday cometh ſevenyght ſuyrly And I deſired to have knowe of hym by cauſe this ſhuld be hir firſt comyng hedir how we ſhuld be rulyd as well in hir reſſeyvyng as in hir abidyng here And he ſeide he wold nat ocupie hym ther wyth but he councelid us to wryte to you to London to knowe of hem that ben of Coñſell of that Cite or wyth other wurſhepfull men of the ſame Cite that ben knowyng in that behalf And we to be ruled ther aftir as were acordyng for us for he lete me to wete that ſhe woll deſire to ben reſſeyved and attendid as wurſhepfully as evir was Quene a forn hir Wherefore S[r]. I be the aſſent of my Bretheren Aldermen, &c. prey you hertily to have this labo[r] for this Cite And that it pleſe you if it may be that at that day ye be here in p'pre p'ſone and I truſt in God that outher in rewards or ellys in thankynges both of the Kyngs comyng and in this ye ſhall ben pleſid as worthy is Wrete in haſt at Norwich the vj day of Juyll A° ix° R E qr[ti].

By yo[r]. Weelwyller,

[5] John Aubrp, &c.

10 by 5 ½.

[4] 18th of July, 1469.

L E T-

Norwich upon [4] Tueſday come ſev'night ſurely. And I deſired to have know of him, becauſe this ſhould be her firſt coming hither, how we ſhould be ruled, as well in her receiving, as in her abiding here. And he ſaid, he would not occupy him therewith, but he counſelled us to write to you to London, to know of them that been of Counſel of that City, or with other worſhipful men of the ſame City, that been knowing in that behalf; and we to been ruled thereafter, as were according for us; for he let me to weet, that ſhe would deſire to be received and attended, as worſhipfully as ever was Queen afore her. Wherefore I, by the aſſent of my Brethren Aldermen, &c. pray you heartily to have this labour for this City, and that it pleaſe you, if it may be, that at that day ye be here in proper perſon. And I truſt in God, that either in rewards, or elſe in thankings both of the King's coming, and in this, ye ſhall be pleaſed as worthy is. Written in haſte at Norwich, the 6th day of July Anno 9° Regis Edw^di quarti.

By your Well Willer,

[5] JOHN AUBRY, &c.

Norwich,
Thurſday, 6th of July,
1469, 9 E. IV.

[5] John Aubry, was Mayor of Norwich, in 1469. Pl. v. N° 22.

LET-

LETTER XXIX.

To my Modr and to my Brother John Paſton.

BROTHER it is ſo y^t the Kyng ſchall come in to Norff' in haſt and I wot nat whethyr y^t I may com' w^t hym or nowt if I come I moſt do make a liu'e of xx^ti gownes whyche I moſt pyke owt by your advyſe and asfor Clothe for ſuche p'ſones as be in y^t contre if it myght be had ther at Norwyche or not I wot not and what p'ſones I am not remembryd.

If my Modre be at [1] Caſt' as ther ſchall be no dowt for the kepyng of y^e place whyl the Kynge is in that contre that I may have the moſt p'te at Caſt' and whether ye woll offre your ſelfe to wayte uppon the Lorde of Norfolk or not I wolde ye dyde y^t beſt wer to do I wolde do my Lorde pleſur and ſ'vyſe and ſo I wolde ye dyde if I wyſt to be ſur of hys gode Lordeſchyp in tyme to kome he ſchall have CC in a lyu'ye blewe and [2] tawny and blew on the leffte ſyde and bothe darke Colors.

I pray yow ſende me worde and your advyſe by Judd of what

There is no date to this Letter; whether it refers therefore to the coming of the King into Norfolk, in 1469 or in 1474, is uncertain, and of little conſequence; the chief reaſon for inſerting it was to ſhew the preparations expected to be made for the attending upon and receiving him. Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

The peculiarity of the Duke of Norfolk's Liveries is worthy notice, being to be made party-coloured of blue and tawny, having the left ſide of the former, and the right of the latter colour.

LETTER XXVII.

To my Mother, and to my Brother John Paſton.

BROTHER, it is ſo that the King ſhall come into Norfolk in haſte, and I wot [*know*] not whether that I may come with him or not; if I come, I muſt do make a Livery of 20 Gowns, which I muſt pick out by your advice; and as for the Cloth for ſuch perſons as be in that Country, if it might be had there at Norwich, or not, I wot not; and what Perſons I am not remembered.

If my Mother be at [1] Caiſter, as there ſhall be no doubt for the keeping of the place while the King is in that Country, that I may have the moſt part at Caiſter.

And whether ye will offer yourſelf to wait upon my Lord of Norfolk or not, I would ye did that beſt were to do; I would do my Lord pleaſure and ſervice, and ſo I would ye did, if I wiſt [*thought*] to be ſure of his good Lordſhip in time to come. He ſhall have 200 in a Livery blue and [2] tawny, and blue on the left ſide, and both dark colours.

I pray you ſend me word, and your advice by Judd of what

N. B. Dreſſes of this kind may be ſeen in various illuminated Manuſcripts of this age.

[1] Caiſter, near Yarmouth, in Norfolk, formerly the Reſidence of Sir John Faſtolf, Knight.

[2] Tawny Colour appears to have been a yellowiſh duſky brown orange colour, and much worn at this time.

men

what men and what horſe I cowde be p'veyd off if ſo be y[t] I moſt nedys kome and of your advyſe in all thyngs be wryghtyng and I ſchall ſend yow haſtely other tydyngs late [3] Sorell be well kept.

John Paſton, kt.

12 by 8 ½.

[3] A Horſe ſo called.

LETTER XXXIX.

The Duc of Norff'.

WHERE John Paſton eſquier and other diu's p'ſones have ageyn the peas kepte the Manoir of Caſter with force ageyne the wille and entent of us the Duc of Norff' to oure grete diſpleaſer whiche notw[t]ſtanding at the comtē-placion of the writing of the mooſt worſhipfull and reu'ent fader in God the Cardenall of England and our mooſt truſty and entierly beloved Unkel the Archbiſshop of Canterbury the right noble Prince my Lord of Clarence and other Lords of oure blood And alſo at the grete labour and enſtaunce of our mooſt dere and ſingler belovid Wiffe We be agreed that the ſeid John

Endorſed in an ancient hand.
" The Duke of Norff' Lr'e upon his entrie into Caiſter A° E. 4. IX°."
This is given to ſhew the regal ſtyle uſed by the Nobility of theſe times.
In Blomefield's Hiſtory of Norfolk, vol. v. p. 1552. A particular Account of the

men, and what horſe I could be purveyed of, if ſo be that I muſt needs come, and of your advice in all things by writing, and I ſhall ſend you haſtily other tidings. Let[3] Sorrell be well kept.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

LETTER XXVIII.

The Duke of Norfolk.

WHERE *(AS)* John Paſton, Eſquire, and other diverſe perſons have, againſt the Peace, kept the Manor of Caiſter with force, againſt the Will and Intent of Us the Duke of Norfolk, to our great Diſpleaſure; which notwithſtanding, at the contemplation of the Writing of the moſt worſhipful and reverend Father in God the Cardinal of England, and our moſt truſty and entirely beloved Uncle the Archbiſhop of Canterbury, the right noble Prince my Lord of Clarence, and other Lords of our blood, and alſo at the great labour and inſtance of our moſt dear and ſingular beloved Wife, We be agreed that the ſaid John Paſton and his ſaid Fellowſhip,

Siege of Caiſter Caſtle is given, with the names of the principal Perſons engaged on both ſides.

[3] The Mark of the Signet remains, but the Impreſſion is defaced.—It is likewiſe ſigned with the Duke's own hand. Pl. IV. N° 3.

John Paſton and his ſeid ffellaſhip beyng in the ſeid Maneur ſhall depart and goo out of the ſeid Maneur without delay and make therof deliu'aunce to ſuche p'ſones as we will aſſigne the ſeid ffellaſhip havyng their lyvès and Goods horſſe and harneys and other goods beyng in the kepyng of the ſeid John Paſton except Gonnes Croſſebows and Quarells and alle other hoſtelments to the ſeid Maneur annexed and belonginge And to have xv Dayes reſpyte aftir their ſeid departing out to goo in to what place ſhall like theim without any accions or quarell to be taken or made by us in our name to theim or any of theim within our ffraunchiſe or without duryng the ſeid tyme.

Yoven under our ſignet at Yermouth the xxvj Day of Septembr the ix^te yere of King Edward the iiij^th.

Norff'. ○

11 ½ by 7 ½.

LETTER XIX.

To S^r. John Paſton Knyght.

RIGHT worſhipfull and my eſpeciall true h'rtid ffrende I comaunde me un to you, P'ying you to ordeyne me iij horſſe harneys as godely as ye and Genyn' kan devyſe as it were for yourſelfe and yat I may have thyme in all haſt orde' Alſo Skern' ſaith ve wolde ordevne ij ſtandarde ſtavys. this I pray

being in the ſaid Manor, ſhall depart and go out of the ſaid Manor without delay, and make thereof deliverance to ſuch Perſons as we will aſſign, the ſaid Fellowſhip having their Lives and Goods, Horſe and Harneſs, and other Goods being in the keeping of the ſaid John Paſton; except Guns, Croſs bows, and Quarrels and all other Hoſtelments [*warlike Implements*] to the ſaid Manor annexed and belonging; and to have 15 Days reſpite after their ſaid departing out, to go into what place ſhall like them, without any Actions or Quarrel to be taken or made by us, or in our name to them, or any of them, within our Franchiſe or without, during the ſaid time.

Given under our Signet at Yarmouth the 26th day of September, the 9th year of King Edward the IV^th^.

NORFOLK.

Yarmouth,
Tueſday, 26th of September,
1469, 9 E. IV.

LETTER XXIX.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight.

RIGHT worſhipful, and my eſpecial true hearted Friend, I commend me unto you, praying you to ordain [*order for*] me three horſes harneſs as goodly as ye and Genyns can deviſe, as it were for yourſelf; and, that I may have them in all haſte, order; alſo Skern ſaith, ye would ordain two

pray you to remembre and my wife ſhalle deliv' you ſilu^r, and yit ſhe moſt borowed it, vj or vij^li I wold be ſtowe on a horſſe harneys, And ſo Skern' tolde me I might have, the Lord Haſt^gs had for y^e ſame price but I wolde not myn' were lik his, and I truſt to God we ſhalle do right welle, who p'ſerve you. Wreten at Cant'bury in haſt the xviij day of Juyll.

Drynford.

11 ¾ by 3 ¼.

John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, (Pl. IV. N° 5.) retaining his loyalty to the Houſe of Lancaſter, in whoſe cauſe his Father and elder Brother had loſt their heads upon the Scaffold in 1461-2, and for whoſe ſake he himſelf had ſuffered a long impriſonment, ſeems now privately to be preparing to join the Earl of Warwick, in favour of the depoſed King Henry.

I ſhould ſuppoſe this Letter to have been written either in July 1469, at the time that the Earl of Warwick and his Adherents were meditating the plan for dethroning Edward, or in 1470, when they had come to a reſolution of reinſtating Henry on the Throne. Pl. XIV. N° 24.

The

LETTER XXX.

To John Paſton Eſqēr beyng at Norwyche be thys Lett' delyu'yd.

I Comande me to yow letyng yow wete, &c. *(Here follows an account of bills and receipts, &c.)*

Itm As ffor Meſtreſſe Kateryn Dudle I have many tymes recomandyd yow to hyr and ſhe is noo thynge diſpleaſyd w^t itt

ſtandard ſtaves; this I pray you to remember, and my wife ſhall deliver you ſilver, and yet ſhe muſt borrow it. Six or ſeven pounds I would beſtow on a Horſe-harneſs; and ſo Skern told me I might have. The Lord Haſtyngs had for the ſame price, but I would not mine were like his; and I truſt to God we ſhall do right well, who preſerve you. Written at Canterbury in haſte, the 18th day of July.

OXYNFORD.

Canterbury, 18th of July,
1469 or 1470,
9 or 10 E. IV.

The Order to Sir John Paſton, for providing the horſe-harneſs was to be executed, "*as it were for himſelf*," and the referring him to the Counteſs for Money, ſhews it to be at a time when his finances were very low. The expreſſion "*Yet ſhe muſt borrow it*," implies too that his Lady had not already the Money, but that ſhe had it *ſtill* to procure.

Though the Earl deſired that his horſe-harneſs might be of the ſame price with one which Lord Haſtyngs had purchaſed, yet he wiſhed it not to be like his; the reaſon ſeems to be, he did not chooſe to appear with Capariſons ſimilar to thoſe of a Yorkiſt.

The words "I truſt to God we ſhall do right well" refer to ſome ſcheme then in agitation; and on the ſucceſs of which he had placed great confidence.

LETTER XXX.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, being at Norwich, be this Letter delivered.

I Recommend me to you, letting you weet, &c. (*Here follows an account of bills, and receipts, &c. of no conſequence.*)

Item, as for Miſtreſs Katherine Dudley, I have many times recommended you to her, and ſhe is nothing diſpleaſed with it; ſhe

itt ſhe rekkythe not howe many Gentylmen love hyr ſhe is ffull of love, I have betyn the mat' ffor yow, your onknowleche as I tolde hyr She anſwerythe me y^t ſche woll noon thys ij yer and I beleve hyr ffor I thynke ſche hathe the lyffe y^t ſche can holde hyr content w^t I trowe ſhe woll be a ſore laboryng woman y^is ij yer ffor mede off hyr ſowle.

And Meſtreſſe Gryſeacreſſe is ſur' to Selenger w^t my Lady of [1] Exeſtr' a ffowle loſſe.

Itm I praye yow ſpeke w^t [2] Harcort off the Abbeye ffor a lytell Clokke whyche I ſent hym by James Greſsh'm to amend and y^t ye woll get it off hym and it be redy and ſende it me and asfor mony ffor hys labor he hathe another cloke off myn' whyche S^r. Thom's Lyndes God have hys ſowle gave me he maye kepe that tyll I paye hym, thys Klok is my Lordys Archebyſshopis but late not hym wete off it and y^t itt eaſely caryed hyddr by yowr advyſe. Alſo as ffor Orenges I ſchall ſende yow a Serteyn by the next Caryer. And as for tydynge the berer hereoff ſchall infforme yow ye moſt geve credence to hym.

As for my goode ſpede I hope well I am offryd yit to have Meſtreſſe Anne Hault' and I ſchall have helpe i nowe as ſome ſeye.

(Here

[1] Anne, Daughter of Richard, Duke of York, and Siſter of King Edward IV. married Henry Holland, Duke of Exeter, and in 1462 had poſſeſſion of his forfeited Eſtates, and remained with her brother, Edward IV. She afterwards married Sir Thomas St. Leger, and died in 1475.

[2] This ſhews that our curious mechanical Arts were practiſed in the religious Houſes, and performed there by the Monks, &c. for money.

This Letter was written in February or March 1469, 1470, or 1471, for in theſe years

ſhe rekkythe [*careth*] not how many Gentlemen love her, ſhe is full of love; I have betyn [*enforced*] the matter for you, your unknowledge [*without your knowledge*] as I told her; ſhe anſwered me, that ſhe would *(have)* no one this two years, and I believe her; for I think, ſhe hath the life that ſhe can hold her content with, I trow ſhe will be a ſore labouring woman this two years for the meed of her Soul.

And Miſtreſs Gryſeacreſs is ſure to Selenger [*St. Leger*], with my Lady of [1] Exeter, a foul loſs.

Item, I pray you ſpeak with [2] Harcourt of the Abbey, for a little clock, which I ſent him by James Greſham to mend, and that ye would get it of him, and [*if*] it be ready, and ſend it me; and as for money for his labour, he hath another Clock of mine, which Sir Thomas Lyndes, God have his Soul! gave me; he may keep that till I pay him; this Clock is my Lord Archbiſhop's, but let not him weet of it, and that it *(be)* eaſily carried hither by your advice.

Alſo as for Oranges I ſhall ſend you a Serteyn by the next Carrier, and as for Tidings the Bearer hereof ſhall inform you, ye muſt give credence to him.

As for my good ſpeed, I hope well, I am offered yet to have Miſtreſs Anne Hault', and I ſhall have help enough as ſome ſay.

years civil diſſenſions were on foot. The caution, reſpecting tidings, and the uncertainty of what may befall, ſhews that this Letter was written during ſome convulſion of the State. Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 10.

By the Earl of Warwick's being ſuppoſed to go with the King into Lincolnſhire, it appears as if this Letter was written during the Reſtoration of Henry VI. and that their going there was to oppoſe Edward's return.

(Here

(Here follows an account of ſome diſputes between Sir William Yelverton and Sir J. Paſton, his Uncle William, &c. of no conſequence.)

It'm it is ſoo y^t^ I am halffe in p'poſe to com hom' w^t^ in a monythe her afftr or abowt med Leñte or beffor Eſterne ondyr yowr coreccon iff ſo be that ye deme y^t^ moodr wolde helpe me to my Coſtys x mrk or ther abowt I praye ffeele hyr dyſpoſicon and ſende me worde.

It'm I cannot telle yow what woll ffalle off the Worlde ffor the Kyng verrely is dyſpoſyd to goo in to Lyncoln ſchyr and men wot not what wyll ffalle ther off ner ther afftr' they wene my Lorde off Norffolke brynge x^mi^ men.

It'm ther is comen a newe litell Torke whyche is a wele vyſagyd Felawe off the age off xl yer' and he is lower than Manuell by an hanffull and lower then my lytell Tom by the ſchorderys and mor lytell above hys pappe and he hathe as he ſeyde to y^e^ Kynge hymſelffe iij or iiij Sonys chyldr' iche on' off hem as hyghe and affe lykly as the Kynge hymſelffe and he is leggyd ryght i now and it is reportyd that hys pyntell is affe longe as hys legge.

It'm I praye yow ſchewe or rede to my moodre ſuche thynges as ye thynke is ffor her to know afftr yowr dyſcreſſion and to late hyr undreſtond off the Article off the trete betwen Syr Wyll'm Yelu'ton and me.

It'm my Lorde of Warwyk as it is ſuppoſyd ſchall goo w^t^ y^e^ Kynge in to Lyncolne ſchyre ſom' men ſeye y^t^ hys goyng ſhall doo good and ſom ſeye that it dothe harme.

I praye

(*Here follows an account of ſome diſputes between Sir William Yelverton, and Sir John Paſton, his Uncle William, &c. of no conſequence.*)

Item, it is ſo that I am in purpoſe to come home within a month hereafter, or about Midlent, or before Eaſter, under your correction, if ſo be, that ye deem that my Mother would help me to my Coſts, 10 marks (6*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) or thereabouts; I pray you feel her diſpoſition and ſend me word.

Item, I cannot tell you what will fall of the World, for the King verily is diſpoſed to go into Lincolnſhire, and men wot not what will fall thereof, nor thereafter, they ween my Lord of Norfolk ſhall bring 10,000 men.

Item, there is come a new little Turk, which is a well viſaged Fellow, of the age of forty years; and he is lower than Manuel by an handful, and lower than my little Tom by the ſhoulders, and more little above his Pap; and he hath, as he ſaid to the King himſelf, three or four Children, (*Sons*) each one of them as high and as likely as the King himſelf; and he is legged right enough.

Item, I pray you ſhew, or read to my Mother, ſuch things, as ye think are for her to know, after your diſcretion; and to let her underſtand of the Article of the treaty between Sir William Yelverton and me.

Item, my Lord of Warwick, as it is ſuppoſed, ſhall go with the King into Lincolnſhire; ſome men ſay that his going ſhall do good, and ſome ſay, that it doth harm.

I praye yow evyr have an eyghe to Caſtr to knowe the rewle ther and ſende me worde and whyther my wyſe Lorde and my Lady be yit as ſottyt uppon it as they wer' and whether my ſeyd Lorde reſortythe thyddr as offte as he dyd or nott and off the dyſpoſycōn off the Contre.

J. P. K.

11 ½ by 17 ½.
A whole Sheet.

Paper Mark,
A Goat's Head.
Pl. x. N° 8.

LETTER XXXJ.

To my right truſty and Welbeloved Sir John Paſton.

i h s.

RIGHT truſty and welbeloved I grete you hertely well. And ſende you by Thom's yor childe xxli prayng you to ſpare me as for eny more atthis tyme and to hold you content with theſſame, as my ſinglr truſte is in you, And I ſhalle within bref tyme ordeigne and p'veye for you ſuch as ſhalbe unto

This Letter from George Neville, Archbiſhop of York, and brother to Richard, Earl of Warwick, muſt have been written either when he was in oppoſition to Edward, in conjunction with his brother the Earl of Warwick, or after his return from his impriſonment abroad, not long before his death, when it is probable he found it difficult to raiſe even a ſmall ſum of Money. Pl. IV. N° 4.

George

I pray you ever have an eye to Caiſter, to know the rule there, and ſend me word, and whether my wiſe Lord and my Lady be yet as ſotted upon it [*as fond of it*] as they were; and whether my ſaid Lord reſorteth thither as often as he did or not; and of the diſpoſition of the Country.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

LETTER XXXI.

To my right truſty and well beloved Sir John Paſton.

IHS.

RIGHT truſty and well beloved, I greet you heartily well, and ſend you by Thomas your Child 20l. praying you to ſpare me as for any more at this time, and to hold you content with the ſame, as my ſingular truſt is in you; and I ſhall within brief time ordain and purvey for you ſuch as ſhall be

George Neville, was conſecrated Biſhop of Exeter, in 1455, when he was not completely twenty years of age. In 1460, he was appointed Lord Chancellor, and in 1466 advanced to the Archbiſhoprick of York. In 1470, he had the Cuſtody of Edward IV. when taken Priſoner by the Earl of Warwick, and died in 1476, Æt. 41.

On the top of the Letter is the ſacred Character of IHS.

unto yo^{r} pleaſir with the g'ce of Almightty God, who have you in his proteccōn and keping.

Writen in the mano^{r} of the [1] Mor the vijth daye of Maye.

G. Eborac.

10 ½ by 3 ½.

A ſmall Part of the Paper Mark, only remains.

The Moor, a Manor in Hertfordſhire, and a Seat of the Archbiſhop of York.

LETTER XXXJ.

To my Coſyn J. Paſton.

THE King camme to Granth'm and ther taried [1] thoreſday all day and ther was headed S^{r}. Thom's Dalalaunde and on John Neille a greate Capteyn and upon y^{e} [2] monday next aft^{r} y^{at} at Dancaſtr and y^{er} was headed S^{r}. Robert Wellys and a nothr greate Capteyn and y^{an} y^{e} King hadde Warde y^{at} the Duk of Clarence and y^{e} Erle of Warwick was att Eſterfeld xx mile from Dancaſtre And uppon y^{e} [3] Teweſday att IX of y^{e} bell y^{e} King toke y^{e} feld and muſtered his people and itt was ſeid y^{at} wer neu' ſeyn in Inglond ſo many goodly men and ſo well

This Letter was written a ſhort time after the battle of Stamford, wherein Edward was victorious, having ſlain and diſperſed the Forces commanded by Sir Robert Welles, who in this engagement had fought moſt furiouſly; being exaſperated at the recent death of his father the Lord Welles. We are here acquainted with the movements of the King

unto your pleaſure with the Grace of Almighty God, who have you in his protection and keeping.

Written in the Manor of the [1] Moor the 7th day of May.

G. EBORAC.

The Moor,
in Hertfordſhire,
7th of May.
Between 1466 and 1476,
6 and 16 E. IV.

LETTER XXXII.

To my Couſin, John Paſton.

THE King came to Grantham, and there tarried [1] Thurſday all day, and there was headed Sir Thomas Dalalaunde and one John Neille a great Captain; and upon the [2] Monday next after that at Doncaſter, and there was headed Sir Robert Welles, and another great Captain; and then the King had word, that the Duke of Clarence, and the Earl of Warwick, was at Eſterfield, 20 miles from Doncaſter; and upon the [3] Tueſday at nine of the bell, the King took the field, and muſtered his people; and it was ſaid, that [*there*] were never ſeen in England ſo

King after his victory, and with ſome of the Executions which took place by his order on thoſe who had oppoſed him.

[1] 15 March, 1469.
[2] 19 March, 1469.
[3] 20 March, 1469.

many

well arreiyed in a feld and my [4] Lord was whorſhupfully accompanyed no Lord y^er ſo well wherfor y^e King gaffe my Lord a greate thanke and y^an the Duk of Clarence and y^e Erle of Warwik harde y^at y^e King was comyng to y^em warde in contynent y^ey dep'ted and wente to Mancheſtr' in Lancaſhiire hopyng to have hadde helpe and ſocour of y^e Lord [5] Stanley butt in conclucōn y^er y^ey hadde litill favor as itt was enformed y^e King and ſo men ſayn y^ey wente weſtward and ſommen demen to London And whan y^e King harde y^er wer dep'ted and gon he went to York and came yeder y^e [6] thoreſday next aftr and y^er camme into hym all y^e Gentilmen of y^e Shire and uppon our [7] Lady day made Percy Erle of Northumb'land and he y^at was [8] Erle affore Markeys Muntakew and y^e King is p'poſed to come Southwarde God ſend hym god ſpede.

Writen y^e xxvij day of March.

[9] for trowpth.

11 ½ by 4 ¼.

L C T.

[4] I believe it means John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.
[5] Thomas, Lord Stanley, afterwards Earl of Derby.
[6] 22 March, 1469.
[7] 25 March, 1470. N. B. The Date changed on the 25th of March, yearly.
[8] John Neville, brother to the Earl of Warwick; by this advancement in honour we

many goodly men, and ſo well arrayed in a field; and my [4] Lord was worſhipfully accompanied, no Lord there ſo well; wherefore the King gave my Lord a great thank.

And than [*when*] the Duke of Clarence, and the Earl of Warwick heard that the King was coming to themward, in continent [*immediately*] they departed, and went to Mancheſter in Lancaſhire, hoping to have had help and ſuccour of the Lord [5] Stanley; but in concluſion, there they had little favour, as it was informed the King; and, ſo men ſay, they went weſtward, and, ſome men deem, to London.

And when the King heard they were departed and gone, he went to York, and came thither the [6] Thurſday next after, and there came in to him all the Gentlemen of the Shire; and upon [7] Our Lady day, (*he*) made Percy Earl of Northumberland, and he that was [8] Earl afore, Marquis Montagu; and ſo the King is purpoſed to come Southward, God ſend him good ſpeed.

Written the 27th day of March.

[9] FOR TRUTH.

Tueſday,
27th of March,
1470, 10 E. IV.

we muſt ſuppoſe that even at this time the King had no ſuſpicion of the loyalty of the Marquis. I have been more particular in aſcertaining the Dates of the occurrences in this Letter, as they differ from ſome of thoſe in our Hiſtorians.

[9] The name of the Writer is not put to this Letter, but at the end, in a hand of the time, though in a different one from that uſed in the Letter, is written "for trowyth." Pl. v. N° 23.

LET-

LETTER XXXIX.

Theſe iij Letteres undirwreten the Kyng of his own hand wrote unto my Lords Clarence Warr, and Arch' of York. The Credence wherof in Subſtaunce was y$_{at}$ eu'y of them ſhulde in ſuech peſibil wiſe as thei have be accuſtumed to ryde, come unto his Highneſs.

R. E. *To our Brother of Clarence.*

BRODIR, We pray you to yeve feight and credence to our welbeloved S^{r}. Thom's [1] Mongomery and Morice [2] Berkley in that on ou^{r} behalf thei ſhal declare to you And we truſte ye wole diſpoſe you accordyng to our pleſer and comāunde^{t} And ye ſhal be to us right welcome. At Notyngham the IX day of Jull.

To ou^{r} Coſyn Therl of Warr.

COSYN we grete you well And pray you to yeve feight and credence to S^{r}. Thom's Mongomery and Morice Berkley, &c. And we ne truſt y^{at} ye ſhulde be of any ſuech diſpoſicōn towards

Theſe Letters of King Edward were copied, and the Copies appear to have been ſent encloſed immediately to the perſon to whom the Letter containing them was directed. Pl. IV. N° 1. was copied from an original Autograph of this King.

The Letters were written by the King in 1470, either immediately before he was taken Priſoner by the Earl of Warwick, or ſoon after his eſcape, and re-aſſuming the government, when a Conference was held at Weſtminſter under a Safe-conduct; or (which is moſt probable) they were written at the time that the King had ordered his forces to rendezvous at Nottingham, in order to oppoſe Warwick; when on the Earl's approach he

LETTER XXXIII.

These three Letters underwritten, the King of his own hand wrote unto my Lords of Clarence, Warwick, and Archbishop of York. The Credence whereof in substance was, that every of them should in such peaceable wise, as they have be [been] *accustomed to ride, come unto his Highness.*

REX EDVARDUS. *To our Brother of Clarence.*

BROTHER, we pray you to give faith and credence to our well beloved Sir Thomas [1] Montgomery and Morice [2] Berkley, in that on our behalf they shall declare to you; and we trust ye will dispose you according to our pleasure and commandment; and ye shall be to us right welcome. At Nottingham the 9th day of July.

To our Cousin, the Earl of Warwick.

COUSIN, we greet you well, and pray you to give faith and credence to Sir Thomas Montgomery and Morice Berkley, (in that on our behalf they shall declare to you); and we ne trust [*do not believe*] that ye should be of any such disposition towards

he retreated, and marched for Lynn, in Norfolk, from whence he embarked for Holland. The Date will not coincide with the time as fixed by our Historians.

The Letters are short and concise, but contain every thing the Writer intended, and as royal Letters are certainly curious. The Signature at the top is copied from an Autograph of King Edward.

[1] Sir Thomas Montgomery had a command at the battle of Barnet, and was a Knight of the Garter.

[2] Maurice Berkeley was second son of James, Lord Berkeley, and in great favour with King Edward. He succeeded his Brother William as Lord Berkeley, in 1491, and died in 1506.

towards us as y^e^ Rumo^r^ here renneth conſederyng the truſt and affeccōn we bere in yow. At Notyngham the IX day of Jull. And Coſyn ne thynk but ye ſhalbe to us welcome.

To our Coſyn Tharchbyſhop of Yarke.

COSYN we p'y you y^at^ ye wul accordyng to the p'myſe ye made us to come to us as ſone as ye goodely may And y^at^ yeve credence to S^r^. Thom's Mongomery and Morice Berkley in y^at^ un ou^r^ behalve yei ſhal ſey to you And ye ſhalbe to us welcome, at Notyngham the IX day of Jul.

11 ¾ by 4 ½.

LETTER XXXII.

To my Maſtyr S^r^. John Paſton knyght be thys delyu'yd.

RYGHT worchepfull S^r^. I recomand me to yow thankȳg yow moſt hertly of yo^r^ gret coſt whyche ye dyd on me at my laſt beīg w^t^ yow at London whyche to my power I wyll recompence yow w^t^ the beſt ſervyſe that lythe in me to do for your pleſure whyll my wytts be my owne.

Syr as for the mater of [1] Caſt' it hathe be meuyd to my

Under the Direction of this Letter is written in a hand of the time "A° x°," which I ſuppoſe means the 10 E. IV. and accordingly I have ſo dated this Letter, though had it not been for this memorandum I ſhould have placed it after that of Sir John Paſton to John Paſton, Eſq. dated 3d of February, 1472, 12 E. IV. and to which I refer the Reader, as likewiſe to the Letter dated between 8 and 9, November 1472, 12 E. IV. N° LI. and L.

Ladys

us, as the Rumour here runneth, conſidering the truſt and affection we bear in you. At Nottingham the 9th day of July. And Couſin ne [*do not*] think but ye ſhall be to us welcome.

To our Couſin the Archbiſhop of York.

COUSIN, we pray you that ye will, according to the promiſe ye made us, come to us as ſoon as ye goodly may; And that *(ye)* give credence to Sir Thomas Montgomery and Morice Berkley in that on our behalf they ſhall ſay to you; and ye ſhall be to us welcome. At Nottingham the 9th day of July.

Nottingham,
9th of July, 1470, 10 E. IV.

LETTER XXXIV.

To my Maſter, Sir John Paſton, knight, be this delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, thanking you moſt heartily of your great coſt, which ye did on me at my laſt being with you at London; which to my power, I will recompence you with the beſt ſervice that lyeth in me to do for your pleaſure, while my wits be my own.

Sir, as for the matter of [1] Caiſter, it hath been moved to my

[1] The Eſtate and the Hall at Caiſter, were part of the poſſeſſions of Sir John Faſtolf, knight. John Paſton, Father of Sir John, was one of his executors; by which means the Paſtons got into poſſeſſion of this Seat, &c. The right of poſſeſſing it was diſputed both by the Duke of Norfolk, and by King Edward IV. the former in 1469, laying a regular Siege to it; the Paſtons had at laſt quiet poſſeſſion.

Ladys good Grace by the Byſhope of [2] Wyncheſt' as well as he kowd imagyn to ſey it conſederȳg the lytyll leyſer that he had w^t hyr and he told me that he had ryght an agreabyll anſwer of hyr but what hys anſwer was he wold not tell me then I axyd hym what anſwer I ſhould ſend yow in as myche as ye mad me a ſolyſyter to hys Lordſhip for that mater then he bad me that undyr conſayll I ſhold ſend you woord that hyr anſwer was more to your pleſure than to the contrary whych ye ſhall have more pleyn knowlage of thys next terme att whyche tyme bothe my Lord and ſhe ſhall be at London.

The Byſhop cam to [3] Framlyngham on wednyſday at nyght and on thurſday by x of the clok befor noon my yong Lady was kryſtend and namyd [4] Anne the Byſhop cryſtend it and was Godfader bothe And w^t in ij owyrs and leſſe aftyr the cryſtenȳg was do, my Lord of Wyncheſt' departyd towards Walth'm. *(Then follows the ſubſtance of a converſation between the Lady of Norfolk and Thomas Davers, wherein ſhe promiſes to be a Friend to Sir John Paſton concerning Caiſter; but J. Davers ſwore J. Paſton not to mention her good will to any perſon, except to Sir John.)* And I let you pleynly weet I am not the man I was, ffor I was never ſo roughe in my Maſtyrs conſeyt as I am now and w^t he told me hymſelff before Rychard Sothewell

[2] William de Wainfleet, or Patten, was a firm Adherent to the Houſe of Lancaſter; and notwithſtanding that continued Biſhop of Wincheſter from 1447 to 1486.

[3] Framlingham Caſtle, in Suffolk, the then magnificent Seat of the Duke of Norfolk.

[4] Anne, Daughter and Heir of John Mowbray, the laſt Duke of Norfolk, of that name. She was married in 1477 (being quite a Child) to Richard Duke of York, ſecond Son of Edward IV. who on this marriage was created Duke of Norfolk, &c.

This

Lady's good Grace by the Biſhop of [2] Wincheſter, as well as he could imagine to ſay it, conſidering the little leiſure that he had with her; and he told me, that he had right an agreeable anſwer of her; but what his anſwer was, he would not tell me; then I aſked him what anſwer I ſhould ſend you, in as much as ye made me a Solicitor to his Lordſhip for that matter; then he bad me, that, under counſel, I ſhould ſend you word, that her anſwer was more to your pleaſure than to the contrary; which ye ſhall have more plain knowledge of this next term, at which time both my Lord and ſhe ſhall be at London.

The Biſhop came to [3] Framlingham on Wedneſday at night, and on Thurſday by ten of the clock before noon, my young Lady was chriſtened, and named [4] Anne; the Biſhop chriſtened it, and was Godfather both; and within two hours and leſs after the Chriſtening was do, my Lord of Wincheſter departed towards Waltham. *(Then follows the ſubſtance of a converſation between the Lady of Norfolk and Thomas Davers, wherein ſhe promiſes to be a Friend to Sir John Paſton concerning Caiſter, but T. Davers ſwore J. Paſton not to mention her good will to any perſon, except to Sir John.)* And I let you plainly weet, I am not the man I was; for I was never ſo rough in my Maſter's conceit as I am now, and that he told me himſelf before

This innocent Prince was ſuppoſed to be murdered in the Tower, with his Brother King Edward V. in 1483, aged about 9 years. The Lady Anne, his Ducheſs, died I believe before him. The Dukedom of Norfolk was in 1483 conferred on the Family of Howard.

Richard

Sothewell Tymp'ley Sr. W. Brandon and twenty more, ſo that they yt lowryd nowgh laughe upon me, no moor but god look. Wretyn at Framlȳgh'm the fryday next aftyr yt I depertyd fro yow, thys day my Lord is towardys [5] Walſyngh'm and comandyd me to ou'take hym to morow at ye fertheſt.

J. P.

13 ½ by 6 ¼.

Part of the Paper Mark,
the Letter G.
Pl. XII. N° 18.
N. B. The upper Part is cut off.

[5] To viſit our Lady of Walſingham I ſuppoſe.

LETTER XXXII.

---- *Paſton, &c.*

BROTHER I comand me to yow, &c. *(Here follows an order about ſearching for ſome Writings, &c.)* Alſo telle John Pampyng that the mayde at ye Bulle at Cludeys at Weſtm' ſent me on a tyme by hym to the moor a rynge of goolde to a tookne whyche I hadde not off hym wherffor I wolle he ſcholde ſende it hyedre ffor ſche moſt have itt ageyn or ellys vs. ffor it was not hyrrys. Itm I praye yow be redye the mater qwykennythe bothe ffor yowe and yowres as well as ffor us and howrys.

As

Richard Southwell, Tymperley, Sir W. Brandon, and twenty more, ſo that they that loved not, laugh upon me; no more but god look [*Query, Good Luck*].

Written at Framlingham the Friday next after that I departed from you. This day my Lord is toward [5] Walſingham, and commanded me to overtake him to-morrow at the fartheſt.

[6] J. PASTON.

Framlingham,
Friday, 1470,
10 E. IV.

[6] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

LETTER XXXV.

To J. Paſton, &c.

BROTHER, I commend me to you, &c. *(Here follows an order about ſearching for ſome Writings, &c.)* Alſo tell John Pampyng that the Maid at the Bull at Cludeys at Weſtminſter, ſent me, on a time by him, to the Moor, a Ring of Gold to a token, which I had not of him; wherefore I would that he ſhould ſend it hither, for ſhe muſt have it again, or elſe 5ˢ. for it was not hers. I pray you be ready, the matter quickeneth both for you and yours, as well as for us and ours.

As ffor tydynges my Lorde [1] Erchebyſshop is at the Moor but ther is beleffte w^t hym dyverſe off the Kynges ſ'vantes and as I underſtond he hathe lyſence to tarry ther tyll he be ſente ffor. Ther be many ffolkes uppe in the northe ſoo y^t [2] Percy is not able to recyſt them and ſoo the Kynge hathe ſente ffor hys ffeeodmen to koom to hym for he woll goo to putt them downe and ſoom ſeye y^t the Kynge ſholde come ageyn to London and that in haſte and as it is ſayde [3] Cortenayes be londyd in Devenſchyr and ther rewle. It'm that y^e Lordes [4] Clarance and Warwyk woll aſſaye to londe in Inglonde evyrye daye as ffolkes ffeer.

I praye yow late not John Mylſent be longe ffrom me w^t as moche as can be gaderyd and alſo that ye wryght to me off all thynges that I have wretyn to yow ffor ſo that I may have anſwer off evȳ thynge.

Other thynges Bacheler Walter berer heroff ſchall informe yow.

Wretyn at London the Sondaye nexte beffor Seynt [5] Lawrence daye.

Alſo my brother Edmonde is not yet remembryd he hathe not to lyff w^t thynk on hym, &c.

John Paſton, Kt.

12 by 10.
Paper Mark,
The Letter R.
Pl. IX. N° 16.

This Letter was written at a time when the nation was in a moſt unſettled ſtate, the late King's Adherents every day expecting the arrival of the Duke of Clarence and the Earl of Warwick, their new Friends. Some expreſſions in this Letter ſeem to inſinuate that Sir John Paſton (Pl. IV. N° 9.) wiſhed well to their cauſe; and by his putting himſelf, as ſoon as the Revolution in the Government happened, under the Protection of the Earl of Oxford, ſhows he did ſo.

L E T-

As for tidings, my Lord [1] Archbiſhop is at the Moor, but there is beleft with him diverſe of the King's ſervants; and as I underſtand, he hath licence to tarry there till he be ſent for. There be many Folks up in the North, ſo that [2] Percy is not able to reſiſt them; and ſo the King hath ſent for his Feodmen to come to him, for he will go to put them down; and ſome ſay, that the King ſhould come again to London, and that in haſte; and as it is ſaid, [3] Courtneys be landed in Devonſhire, and there rule.

Item, that the Lords [4] Clarence and Warwick will aſſay to land in England every day, as Folks fear.

I pray you let not John Mylſent be long from me, with as much as can be gathered; and alſo that ye write to me of all things that I have written to you for, ſo that I may have anſwer of every thing.

Other things Batchelor Walter, bearer hereof ſhall inform you. Written at London, the Sunday next before Saint [5] Lawrence's day.

Alſo my Brother Edmund is not yet remembered; he hath not to live with, think on him, &c.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Sunday, 5th of Auguſt,
1470, 10 E. IV.

[1] This muſt mean George Neville, Archbiſhop of York, and Brother to the Earl of Warwick, who ſeems to have been ſuſpected by the King, and left at the Moor as a kind of State Priſoner.

[2] Henry Percy, the lately created Earl of Northumberland.

[3] The Courtneys were late Earls of Devonſhire.

[4] Theſe Noblemen landed about the beginning of the month following.

[5] St. Laurence's day is the 10th of Auguſt.

LETTER XXXV.

To my ryght Worchipfull Modyr Margaret Paſton be thys delyu'd.

AFTYR humbyll and moſt dew recomendacyon as lowly as I can I beſeche yow of yo^{r} blyſſȳg Pleſyt yow to wet y^{t} blyſſyd be god my brodyr and I be in good hele and I tryſt that we ſhall do ryght well in all owyr maters haſtyly ffor my Lady of [1] Norff hathe promyſſyd to be rewlyd by my Lord of [2] Oxynforthe in all ſyche maters as belonge to my brodyr and to me and as for my Lord of Oxynforthe he is bettyr Lord to me by my trowthe than I can wyſhe hym in many maters for he ſente to my Lady of Norff by John Bernard only for my mater and for non othyr cauſe my onwetȳg or wythout eny preyer of me for when he ſente to hyr I was at London and he at Colcheſtyr and y^{t} is a lyeklyod he remēbyrthe me the Dwk and the Dwcheſs ſwe to hym as humbylly as evyr I dyd to them in ſo myche that my Lord of Oxynforth ſhall have the rwyll of them and thers by ther owne deſyirs and gret meanys. As for the Ofyces that ye wrot to my brodyr for and

This Letter was written after the flight of Edward, and very ſoon after the reſtoration of Henry VI. to the throne. Sir John Paſton, and his Brother John Paſton, (Pl. IV. N° 12.) the Writer of this Letter, had been and ſtill were of the Houſehold of the Duke of Norfolk, but were now making their court to the Earl of Oxford; and hoped by his favour to have appointments under this new Government, which took place the beginning of October.

to

LETTER XXXVI.

To my right worſhipful Mother, Margaret Paſton, be this delivered.

AFTER humble and moſt due recommendation, as lowly as I can, I beſeech you of your bleſſing. Pleaſe it you to weet, that, bleſſed be God, my Brother and I be in good hele [*health*]; and I truſt that we ſhall do right well in all our matters haſtily; for my Lady of [1] Norfolk hath promiſed to be ruled by my Lord of [2] Oxford in all ſuch matters as belong to my brother and to me; and as for my Lord of Oxford, he is better Lord to me, by my truth, than I can wiſh him in many matters; for he ſent to my Lady of Norfolk by John Bernard only for my matter, and for none other cauſe mine on weeting [*forgetting*], or without any prayer of me, for when he ſent to her I was at London, and he at Colcheſter, and that is a likelihood he remembered me.

The Duke and the Ducheſs ſue to him as humbly as ever I did to them; inſomuch that my Lord of Oxford ſhall have the rule of them and theirs, by their own deſires and great means.

As for the Offices, that ye wrote to my brother for and to me,

[1] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk; Elizabeth, Daughter of John Talbot, firſt Earl of Shrewſbury, Ducheſs of Norfolk.

[2] John de Vere, a firm friend to the Houſe of Lancaſter, and who, during the ſhort exaltation of Henry, was amongſt the firſt Stateſmen of that Party. He died 10th of March, 1412, 4 H. VIII.

to me they be for no poore men but I tryſt we ſhall ſped of othyr ofyſeys metly for us. For my Maſtyr the Erle of Oxynforthe bydeth me axe and have. I trow my brodyr S^r. John ſhall have the Conſtabyllſhep of Norwyche caſtyll w^t xx^li of ffee all the Lordys be agreyd to it. Tydyngs the Erle of [3] Wyrceſtyr is lyek to dye y^is day or to morow at the fertheſt John Pylkȳgton M. W. att Clyff and ffowler ar takyn and in the caſtyll of Pomfrett and ar lyek to dye haſtyly w^t owte y^ey be dead. S^r. T. Mongomere and Joudone be takyn what ſhall falle of hem I can not ſey.

The [4] Qwen y^t was and the Dwcheſs of [5] Bedford be in Seyntuary at Weſtmeſtyr, the Byſheop [6] of Ely w^t othyr Byſheopys ar in ſeynt Martyns when I here more I ſhall ſend yow more I prey God ſend yow all your deſyrs Wretyn at London on Seynt Edwards evyn.

Yo^r Sone and humbyll Servñt,

J. P.

Modyr I beſeche yow y^t Brome may be ſpokyn to to gadyr up my ſylluyr at Gwton in all haſt poſſybyll for I have no mony. Alſo y^t it lyek yow y^t John Mylſent may be ſpokyn to to kep well my Grey horſe and he be alyve and y^t he ſpare no met

[3] John Tiptoft, Lord Treaſurer and Lord Conſtable, abſconded on the departure of his Royal Maſter, but was taken in Weybridge Foreſt, in Huntingdonſhire, concealed in a Tree; and being brought to the Tower, was there beheaded upon a charge of cruelty, on the 18th of October, 1470.

[4] Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV.

on

they be for no poor men; but I truſt we ſhall ſpeed of other offices meetly for us. For my Maſter the Earl of Oxford biddeth me aſk and have. I trow [*think*] my brother Sir John ſhall have the Conſtableſhip of Norwich Caſtle, with 20*l.* of Fee; all the Lords be agreed to it.

Tidings, the Earl of [3] Worceſter is like to die this day, or to-morrow at the fartheſt; John Pilkington, M. W. at Clyff, and Fowler are taken, and in the Caſtle of Pomfret, and are like to die haſtily, without they be dead. Sir Thomas Montgomery and Joudone be taken, what ſhall fall of them I cannot ſay.

The [4] Queen that was, and the Ducheſs of [5] Bedford be in Sanctuary at Weſtminſter; the Biſhop of [6] Ely with other Biſhops are in Saint Martin's; when I hear more, I ſhall ſend you more; I pray God ſend you all your deſires. Written at London on Saint Edward's even.

Your Son and humble Servant,

J. PASTON.

London, Thurſday,
11th of October, 1470, 10 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

Mother, I beſeech you, that Brome may be ſpoken to, to gather up my Silver at Guyton in all haſte poſſible, for I have no money. Alſo that it like you, that John Milſent may be ſpoken to, to keep well my Grey Horſe, an [*if*] he be alive, and

[5] Jaqueline, of Luxemburgh, Ducheſs-dowager of Bedford, and Widow of Sir Richard Widville or Woodville, Mother to Elizabeth.

[6] William Gray, a man of family and great learning, was placed in this See by Pope Nicholas the V. in 1454. He was Lord Treaſurer to Edward IV. and died in 1478.

that

on hym and y^{t} he have konnȳg Lechys to look to hym As for my comȳg hom I knowe no ſerteynte for I terry tyll my Lady of Norff com to go thorow w^{t} the maters and ſhe ſhall not be here tyll ſonday.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.

LETTER XXVII.

To my right dere and welbeloved Brother Thomas Veer.

RIGHT Dere and welbeloved brother I com'nd me hertly unto you c'tyfying you that I have receyved yo^{r} w'tyng directed now laſte unto me by my ſ'vant Will'm Cooke by which I und'ſtande the faithfull gwydyng and diſpoſicōn of the Cuntre to my gret Cumfote and Pleaſer, which I dowbte not ſhall redunde to the gretheſt p'ſyng and worſhip that eu' dide till eny Cuntre c'tyfying you ferd'more that by Nicheſon of yo^{r} other tydyngs laſte ſend unto me Alſo thes by Robt Port' I have diſpoſed me w^{t} all the power that I can make in Eſſex and Suff' Cambrygeſhire and other places to be on monday next comȳg at Bury whiche p'poſe I intende to obſ've w^{t} Godds g'ce towards you in to Norff' to the aſſiſtence of you and the Cuntre in caſe Edwarde w^{t} his Companye had aryved ther and yete I ſhall do the ſame nōghtw'ſtandyng for if he aryve northwarde

that he ſpare no meat on him, and that he have cunning Leeches to look to him. As for my coming home, I know no certainty, for I tarry till my Lady of Norfolk come to go through with the matters, and ſhe ſhall not be here till Sunday.

LETTER XXXVII.

To my right dear and well beloved Brother, Thomas Veer.

RIGHT dear and well beloved Brother, I commend me heartily unto you; certifying you that I have received your writing, directed now laſt unto me, by my ſervant William Cooke, by which I underſtand the faithful guiding and diſpoſition of the Country to my great Comfort and Pleaſure; which I doubt not ſhall redound to the greateſt praiſing and worſhip that ever did till [*to*] any Country; certifying you farthermore, that by Nicheſon of your other tidings laſt ſent unto me; alſo theſe by Robert Porter. I have diſpoſed me with all the power that I can make in Eſſex and Suffolk, Cambridgeſhire, and other places, to be on Monday next coming at Bury, which purpoſe I intend to obſerve with God's Grace towards you into Norfolk, to the aſſiſtance of you and the Country, in caſe Edward with his Company had arrived there, and yet I ſhall do the ſame notwithſtanding; for if he arrive Northward, like

as

like as ye wete by likelyhode he ſhulde I caſte to folow and porſew hym and where ye deſire that I ſhulde ſend you woorde what diſpoſicōn ſhalbe take in the Cuntre wher ye be I deſire you that ye by theadvyſe of the Gentilmē which ben there cheſe iij or iiij and ſend theym to me at Bury on monday next and than I and they w^t^ my Counceyle ſhall take a Direccōn for the Sur'tie of all that Cuntre by Godds g'ce by whome I ſhall ſend than to you relacōn whed^r^ ye ſhall remayne ſtill ther yo^r^ ſelff or reſorte to me w^t^ all thos that be acompayned w^t^ you and Jh'u p'ſ've you. At Hithingh'm the xiiij day of Marche.

Yu pour lovyng brothyr,

Oxynford.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.

Paper Mark, Wheels, &c.
Pl. x. N° 9.

L C T.

Sir Thomas de Vere, Knight, was third brother to John de Vere, Earl of Oxford. It appears from this Letter, that the County of Norfolk was in the intereſt of Henry VI. and by the Orders which it contains, that the Earl had had advice from his Brother of the appearance of Edward's Fleet on that Coaſt, and of its proceeding from thence to the North.

Hollingſhed

as ye weet by likelihood he ſhould, I caſt [*intend*] to follow and purſue him, and where(*as*) ye deſire that I ſhould ſend you word what diſpoſition ſhall be taken in the Country where ye be, I deſire you, that ye, by the advice of the Gentlemen which be there, chuſe three or four and ſend them to me at Bury on Monday next; and then I and they, with my Council, ſhall take a direction for the ſurety of all that Country by God's grace; by whom I ſhall ſend then to you relation, whether ye ſhall remain ſtill there yourſelf, or reſort to me with all thoſe that be accompanied with you, and Jeſu preſerve you. At Hithingham [*Heningham*] the 14th day of March.

By your loving Brother,

OXYNFORD.

Heningham, or Hedingham Caſtle, in Eſſex,
14th of March, 1470, 11 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

Hollingſhed informs us, that Edward came before Cromer, in Norfolk, on the 12th of March, where he ſent on ſhore Sir Robert Chamberlaine, Sir Gilbert Debenham, and others, to underſtand how the Country ſtood affected. They found the vigilance of the Earl of Oxford, and the great preparations he had made, were ſuch, that it would be unſafe to land, and therefore they ſteered Northwards.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 5. Pl. XIV. N° 24.

LETTER XXXIII.

To my right truſty and welbelovyd Henry Spilman Thos Seyve John Seyve James Radclif John Brampton the older and to eche of them.

TRUSTY and welbeloved I comñde me to you lettyng you witte that I have credible tydyngs that the Kyngs gret enemys and rebellis acompanyed w^t^ enemys eſtũngers be nowe aryved and landyd in the north p'ties of this his land to the utter deſtruction of his roiall p'ſone and ſubu'ſion of all his realm if they myght atayne whom to encountr' and reſiſte the Kings Highneſſe hath comũnded and aſſigned me under his ſeall ſufficient power and auctorite to call reyſe gad'r and aſſemble fro tyme to tyme all his liege people of the Shir' of Norff' and other places to aſſiſte ayde and ſtrenght me in the ſame entent Wherfor in the Kyngs name and by auctorite aforeſaid I ſtraitly charge and comãnd you and in my owne byhalf hertly deſir' and pȳ you that all excuſes leid ap't ye and eche of you in your owne p'ſones defenſibly araied w^t^ asmony

This ſpirited Letter was written immediately after notice of the landing of Edward at Ravenſpur, in Yorkſhire, on the 14th of March; but whether the forces raiſed in Norfolk, and the neighbouring Counties, marched towards Newark does not appear; —if they did, they and thoſe they might meet there, never faced Edward's Army, which came forwards to the Earl of Warwick's Forces intrenched at Coventry. Edward there made

LETTER XXXVIII.

To my right truſty and well beloved Henry Spilman, Thomas Seyve, John Seyve, James Radclif, John Brampton the elder, and to each of them.

TRUSTY and well beloved, I commend me to you, letting you weet, that I have credible tidings that the King's great Enemies and Rebels, accompanied with Enemies Eſtrangers, be now arrived, and landed in the North parts of this his land, to the utter deſtruction of his royal perſon, and ſubverſion of all his realm, if they might attain; whom to encounter and reſiſt the King's Highneſs hath commanded and aſſigned me, under his Seal, ſufficient power and authority to call, raiſe, gather, and aſſemble, from time to time, all his liege people of the ſhire of Norfolk, and other places to aſſiſt, aid, and ſtrengthen me in the ſame intent.

Wherefore in the King's name, and by authority aforeſaid, I ſtraitly charge and command you, and in my own behalf heartily deſire and pray you, that, all excuſes laid a-part, ye and each

made a feint of attacking them, but being joined by his Brother the Duke of Clarence, it was determined to omit that, and proceed immediately to London; where he arrived on the 11th of April, without oppoſition, and inſtantly re-aſſumed the Government of the Kingdom.

Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 5.

asmony men as ye may goodly make be on fryday next comyng at Lynne and ſo forth to Newark wher' w^t the leve of God, I ſhall not faile to be at that tyme entendyng fro thence to goo foorth w^t the help of God you and my fryndes to the recountr of the ſaid enemyes And that ye faill not hereof as ye tendr' the weele of our ſaid Sou'eygne Lord and all this his realme Written at Bury the xix^th day of Marche.

Drynford.

12 by 6¼.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 3.

LETTER XXXI.

To the right Worſhipfull and ſp'all ſingler Maiſter S^r. John Paſton knyght be this delyu'ed.

AFTER due recomendacōn hadde w^t all my ſ'vyce, &c. (*Here follow Copies of Indictments and Appeals procured againſt S^r. John Paſton, and his Servants; — and likewiſe other law buſineſs.*)

As for tydyngs here in y^is cuntre be many tales, and non accorth w^t other, it is tolde me by the Undirſhireve that my Lord of Clarence is goon to his brother late Kyng in ſo moche that

of you, in your own perſons defenſibly arrayed, with as many men as ye may goodly make, be on Friday next coming at Lynne, and ſo forth to Newark; where, with the leave of God, I ſhall not fail to be at that time; intending from thence to go forth with the help of God, you, and my Friends to the re-counter of the ſaid Enemies; and that ye fail not hereof, as ye tender the weal of our ſaid Sovereign Lord, and all this his Realm. Written at Bury, the 19th day of March.

OXYNFORD.

Bury,
19th of March,
1470, 11 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

LETTER XXXIX.

To the right worſhipful and ſpecial Singular Maſter, Sir John Paſton, knight, be this delivered.

AFTER due recommendation had, with all my ſervice, &c. *(Here follow Copies of Indictments and Appeals procured againſt Sir John Paſton, and his Servants;—and likewiſe other law buſineſs.)*

As for tidings, here in this Country be many Tales, and none accord with other; it is told me by the Under Sheriff, that my Lord of Clarence is gone to his Brother late King; inſomuch

that his men have the [1] Gorget on their breeſts and y^e^ Roſe ou' it And it is ſeid that y^e^ Lord [2] Howard hath p'clamed Kyng E Kyng of Inglond in Suff, &c.

Yōs and at yo^r^ comandement,

[3] James Greſh'm.

Paper Mark,
A Pair of Shears,
Pl. xi. N° 11.
12 by 16 ½.

[1] A Collar worn round the neck.

LETTER XL.

To my Moodre.

MOODRE I recomande me to yow letyng yow wette y^t^ blyſſed be God my brother John is a lyffe and farethe well and in no p'ell off dethe. Neu' the leſſe he is hurt w^t^ an Arow on hys ryght arme be nethe y^e^ elbow and I have ſent hym a Serion whyche hathe dreſſid hym and he tellythe me y^t^ he truſtythe y^t^ he ſchall be all holl w^t^ in ryght ſchort tyme. It is ſo y^t^ John Mylſent is ded God have m'cy on hys Sowle and Wyll'm Mylſent is on lyffe and hys other Servants all be aſkepyd by all lyklihod.

It'm as ffor me I ame in good caſe blyſſyd be God and in no Jop'te off my lyffe as me lyſt my ſelf for I am at my lyberte

inſomuch that his men have the [1] Gorget on their breaſts, and the Roſe over it. And it is ſaid, that the Lord [2] Howard hath proclaimed King E (*dward*) King of England in Suffolk.

Yours, and at your Commandment,

[3] JAMES GRESHAM.

Latter end of March,
or beginning of April,
1471, 11 E. IV. (49 H. VI.)

[2] John Howard, afterwards the firſt Duke of Norfolk of that name.
[3] Pl. III. N° 28.

LETTER XL.

To my Mother

MOTHER, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that, bleſſed be God, my brother John (*Paſton*) is alive and fareth well, and in no peril of death; nevertheleſs he is hurt with an Arrow on his right arm, beneath the elbow; and I have ſent him a Surgeon, which hath dreſſed him, and he telleth me, that he truſteth that he ſhall be all whole within right ſhort time.

It is ſo that John Milſent is dead, God have mercy on his Soul! and William Milſent is alive, and his other Servants all be eſcaped by all likelihood.

Item, as for me, I am in good caſe bleſſed be God; and in no jeopardy of my life, as me liſt myſelf; for I am at my liberty if need be.

Item,

iff nede bee. It'm my Lorde [1] Archebyſshop is in the Towr neu'theleſſe I truſt to God y[t] he ſchall do well I noghe he hathe a Saffe garde for hym and me bothe. Neu'theleſſe we have ben troblyd ſyns but nowe I undreſtande y[t] he hathe a Pardon and ſo we hope well.

Ther was kyllyd uppon the ffelde halffe a myle ffrom Bernett on Eſterne daye [2] the Erle of Warwyk, y[e] Marqweys Montacu S[r]. Will'm [3] Terell S[r]. Lewes Johns and dyu'ſe other Eſqērs off owr Contre. Godm'ſton and Bothe.

And on the Kynge Edwardes p'tye the Lord [4] Cromwell y[e] Lord [5] Saye S[r]. Omffrey [6] Bowghſher off owr contre whyche is a ſore moonyd man her and other peple off bothe p'tyes to y[e] nombre off mor then [7] a m[l]

As for other tythynges is undreſtande her y[t] the Qwyen Margrett

This curious Letter was written by Sir John Paſton, (Pl. IV. N° 9.) to his Mother, the fourth day after the Battle of Barnet; wherein he had perſonally fought; and which may be ſaid to have ſettled Edward almoſt ſecurely on the throne, by depriving him of his implacable Enemy the great Earl of Warwick, who here fell, moſt furiouſly fighting.

His Brother, the Marquis of Montagu, ſhared the ſame fate; Sir John Paſton ſhows himſelf a true Lancaſtrian, and even now entertains great hopes of a change of affairs favourable to Henry;—theſe, I ſuppoſe, were raiſed by the landing of Queen Margaret and her Son, Prince Edward, in Dorſetſhire, but they proved of ſhort continuance, for at the fatal Battle of Tewkeſbury, fought on the 4th of May following, her Army was totally routed, and herſelf, and Son, taken Priſoners; when the latter was almoſt immediately moſt baſely murdered, in the preſence of Edward; and our Hiſtorians ſay, that this young Prince fell by the Swords of the Dukes of Clarence and Glouceſter, and of the Lords Dorſet and Haſtyngs!

He was only eighteen years of age, and was buried without any funeral pomp, in the Church of the Black Friars, in Tewkeſbury.

It ſeems ſomewhat ſurpriſing that Sir John ſhould commit to paper his wiſhes and opinions

Item, my Lord [1] Archbiſhop is in the Tower; nevertheleſs I truſt to God, that he ſhall do well enough; he hath a Safeguard for him and me both; nevertheleſs we have been troubled ſince, but now I underſtand, that he hath a Pardon; and ſo we hope well.

There was killed upon the Field, half a mile from Barnet, on Eaſter day, [2] the Earl of Warwick, the Marquis Montagu, Sir William [3] Tyrell, Sir Lewis Johns, and divers other Eſquires of our Country, Godmerſton and Booth.

And on the King Edward's party, the Lord [4] Cromwell, the Lord [5] Say, Sir Humphrey [6] Bourchier of our Country, which is a ſore moonyd [*moaned*] man here; and other people of both Parties to the number of more than [7] a thouſand.

As for other tidings, (*it*) is underſtood here, that the Queen

* opinions ſo fully, at a time when he was ſcarcely at liberty himſelf, and had reaſon to fear that if his ſentiments were diſcovered his life might be in danger.

[1] George Neville, Archbiſhop of York;—it was from the cuſtody of this Prelate, that Edward eſcaped, after having been ſurpriſed and taken Priſoner by the Earl of Warwick, in 1470; perhaps the kind treatment of his then Priſoner, now procured his Pardon.

[2] The Bodies of theſe two Noblemen were expoſed three days to public view in St. Paul's Cathedral, and then conveyed to, and buried at Biſham Abbey, in Berkſhire.

[3] Sir William Tyrel, was Couſin to Sir James Tyrel, the afterwards ſuppoſed Murderer of Edward V. and his brother the Duke of York.

[4] Humphrey Bourchier, third Son of Henry Earl of Eſſex, had ſummons to parliament, in 1461, as Lord Cromwell, in right of his wife.

[5] William Fienes, Lord Say.

[6] Son of John Lord Berners.

[7] This number is conſiderably leſs than the leaſt given by any of our Hiſtorians, who, ſome of them, made the liſt of ſlain to amount to 10,000 others to 4000, and thoſe who ſpeak the moſt moderately to 1500 men.

The Battle of Barnet began on the morning, and laſted till afternoon on Eaſter Sunday, the 14th of April, 1471.

[8] Margrett is verrely londyd and hyr Sone in the weſt Coutre and I trow y[t] as to morow or ellys y[e] next daye the Kynge Edwarde wyll dep't ffrom henſe to hyr warde to dryve her owt ageyn. It'm I beſeche yow y[t] I may be recomendyd to my Coſyn Lomner and to thanke hym ffor hys goode wyll to me wardes iff I had hadde nede as I undreſtoode by the berer heroff and I beſeche you on my behalve to advyſe hym to be well ware off hys delyng or langage as yit ffor the worlde I enſur yow is ryght qweſye as ye ſchall know w[t] in thys monthe the peple heer feerythe it ſoor.

God hathe ſchewyd hym ſelffe marvelouſlye lyke hym y[t] made all and can undoo ageyn whan hym lyſt, and I kan thynke y[t] by all lyklyod ſchall ſchewe hym ſylff as mervylous ageyn and that in ſchort tyme and as I ſuppoſe offter then onys in caſis lyke.

It'm it is ſoo that my brother is on p'veyed off monye, I have holpyn hym to my power and above. Wherffor as it pleaſythe yow remembre hym, ffor kan not p'veye ffor my ſelffe in y[e] ſame caſe.

Wretyn at London the thoryſdaye in Eſterne weke I hope haſtely to ſee yow.

All [9] thys bylle moſt be ſecrett, be ye not adoghtyd off the worlde ffor I truſt all ſchall be well, iff it thuſſe contenewe

[8] Queen Margaret, and Prince Edward her Son, landed at Weymouth, in Dorſetſhire, about the 13th or 14th of April.

[8] Margaret is verily landed and her Son, in the Weſt Country, and I trow [*believe*] that as to-morrow or elſe the next day, the King Edward will depart from hence to her ward, to drive her out again.

Item, I beſeech you that I may be recommended to my Couſin Lomner, and to thank him for his good will to me ward, if I had had need, as I underſtood by the Bearer hereof; and I beſeech you on my behalf to adviſe him to be well ware of his dealing or language as yet, for the world, I aſſure you, is right queaſy [*unſettled*] as ye ſhall know within this month; the People here feareth it ſore.

God hath ſhewed himſelf marvellouſly like him that made all, and can undo again when him liſt; and I can think that by all likelihood ſhall ſhew himſelf as marvellous again, and that in ſhort time; and, as I ſuppoſe, oftener than once in caſes like.

Item, it is ſo, that my Brother is unpurveyed [*unprovided*] of money, I have holpen [*helped*] him to my power and above; wherefore, as it pleaſeth you, remember him, for cannot purvey for myſelf in the ſame caſe.

Written at London the Thurſday in Eaſter week.

I hope haſtily to ſee you. [9] All this bill muſt be ſecret. Be ye not adoubted [*ſuſpicious*] of the world, I truſt all ſhall

[9] Sir John had ſufficient reaſon to ſay, "All this bill muſt be ſecret," for if the concluſion of this Letter had been ſeen by the York Party; his Liberty, if not his Life, would have been at ſtake.

I ame not all undon nor noon off us and iff otherwyſe, then, &c. &c.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. XI. N° 10.

LETTER XLI.

To the ryght rev'ent and wyrchypfull [1] Lady.

RYGHT reu'ent and wyrchypfull Lady I recomande me to yow lettyng yow wete that I am in gret hevynes at the makyng of thys Lett' but thankyd be God I am eſchapyd my ſelfe and ſodenly dep'tyd fro my men for I undyrſtand my Chapleyn wold have detrayed me and if he com in to the Contre let hym be mad ſeu' &c. Alſo ye ſhall gyff credence to the bryng' of thys Lett' and I beſeke yow to reward hym to hys coſts for I was not in power at the makyng of thys Lett' to gyff hym but as I waſs put in treſt by favar of ſtrange pepyll, &c.

Alſo ye ſhall ſend me in all haſt all the redi money that ye can

This curious and ſecret Letter, without Name, Date, or Direction, was written by ſome Perſon of conſequence in this reign, and I believe by John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, after the unſucceſsful battle of Barnet, fought on the 14th of April, 1471, when he retreated with ſome of his men towards Scotland; but diſcovering a deſign to betray him, he privately left them, and went into Wales to join the Earl of Pembroke. The ſupplies of

be well; if it thus continue, I am not all undone, nor none of us; and if otherwiſe then, &c. &c.

London,
Thurſday, 18th of April,
1471, 11 E. IV.

LETTER XLI.

To the right reverend and worſhipful [1] *Lady.*

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Lady, I recommend me to you, letting you weet that I am in great heavineſs at the making of this Letter; but thanked be God, I am eſcaped myſelf, and ſuddenly departed from my men; for I underſtand my Chaplain would have detrayed [*betrayed*] me; and if he come into the Country, let him be made ſure, &c.

Alſo ye ſhall give credence to the Bringer of this letter, and I beſeech you to reward him to his coſts; for I was not in power at the making of this letter to give him, but as I was put in truſt by favour of ſtrange people, &c.

Alſo ye ſhall ſend me in all haſte all the ready money that ye

of men and money, &c. herein required to be ſent to him, were intended to ſtrengthen the Queen's army, which was now with the utmoſt expedition aſſembling, and which, before the Earls of Pembroke and Oxford could join it, was totally routed at Tewkeſbury, on the 4th of May following.

[1] Margaret, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury, and Siſter to the late Earl of Warwick, and Wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford.

can

can make and aſſe mone of my mē aſſe can com well horſyd and that they cū in dyu'ſe p'cellys, Alſo that my horſſe be ſent w^t my ſtele Sadelles and byd the yoman of the horſe cou' theym w^t ledd^r. Alſo ye ſhall ſend to my [2] Mod^r and let hyr wete of thys Lett' and pray hyr of hyr bleſſyng and byd hyr ſend me my Kaſket by thys tokyn that ſhe hathe the Key theroff but it is brokyn.

Alſo ye ſhall ſend to the Pryor of [3] Thetford and byd hym ſend me the S'm of gold that he ſeyd that I ſchuld have. Alſo ſey to hym by thys [4] token that I ſchewyd hym the fyrſt p've Seale, &c. Alſo lete Paſtun, Fylbryg Brews com' to me. Alſo ye ſhall delyu' the bryng' of thys Lett' an horſſe ſadell and brydell Alſo ye ſchallbe of gud cher and take no thowght for I ſchall brynge my [5] purpoſe abowte now by the g'ce of God qwhome have yow in kepyng.

[6] D . . . . . D.

11 ½ by 5 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. x. N° 1.

[2] Elizabeth, Daughter and Heir of Sir John Howard, Knight, who was Uncle to John Howard, firſt Duke of Norfolk of that name. She was now the widow of John de Vere, late Earl of Oxford.

[3] John Veſcey, Prior of Thetford, from 1441 to 1479.

[4] The preciſion of the privy tokens ſhews the caution obſerved, leſt the Money, &c. ſhould be fraudulently obtained by making uſe of his name only.

can make; and as many of my men, as can come well horſed, and that they come in diverſe parcels.

Alſo that my beſt horſes be ſent with my ſteel ſaddles, and bid the Yeoman of the horſe cover them with leather.

Alſo ye ſhall ſend to my [2] Mother, and let her weet of this letter, and pray her of her bleſſing, and bid her ſend me my Caſket, by this token; *that ſhe hath the Key thereof, but it is broken.*

Alſo ye ſhall ſend to the Prior of [3] Thetford, and bid him ſend me the Sum of Gold that he ſaid that I ſhould have; alſo ſay to him by this [4] token; *that I ſhewed him the firſt Privy Seal, &c.*

Alſo let Paſton, Felbrig, and Brews, come to me.

Alſo ye ſhall deliver the bringer of this letter an horſe, ſaddle, and bridle.

Alſo ye ſhall be of good cheer, and take no thought [*be not melancholy*], for I ſhall bring my [5] purpoſe about now by the grace of God, who have you in keeping.

[6] D . . . . . D.

April, 1471, 11 E. IV.

[5] This ſhews the expectations formed by this laſt attempt of the Queen and Prince Edward.

[6] For an exact Copy of this Signature, of which the firſt Character may be ſuppoſed to reſemble an O, and the laſt a D, though this is *only* ſuppoſition, ſee Pl. IV. N° 6.

LET-

LETTER XLIJ.

To Meſtreſſe Margret Paſton or to John Paſton Eſqier hyr Sone in haſt.

RYGHT well belovyd brother I comende me to yow letyng yow wete y^{t} I am in wellffar I thanke God and have ben euyr ſyns y^{t} I ſpake laſt w^{t} yow, and mervayle for y^{t} ye ſent neu' wryghtynge to me ſyns ye departyd I herde nevyr ſyn' y^{t} tyme any worde out off Norff' ye myght aft [1] Bertlemai feyr have had meſſengers I nowe to London and iff ye had ſent to Wykys he ſcholde have cōveyed it to me. I herde yiſt'daye y^{t} a Worſted man off Norff, y^{t} ſolde [2] Worſtedys at Wyncheſt' ſeyde y^{t} my Lord of Norff' and my Lady wer on pylgrymage at [3] Our Lady on ffoot and ſo they went to Caſt' and y^{t} at Norwyche on ſcholde have had large langage to yow and callyd yow [4] Traytor and pyked many q'rellys to yow, ſende me worde ther off, it wer well doo y^{t} ye wer a lytell ſewrer off yowr pardon than ye be auyſe you, I deme ye woll her afftr ellys repent yow.

I undre-

This Letter contains no Anecdotes of much conſequence, yet we may learn from it how little intercourſe was kept up between one part of the kingdom and another; no opportunity perhaps having occurred of ſending a Letter from Norwich to London, unleſs at the time of the Fair; another thing ſtrikes us, which is, the uſe that Pilgrims were of, in conveying intelligence. The advice which Sir John (Pl. IV. N° 10.) hints

LETTER XLII.

To Mrs. Margaret Paſton, or to John Paſton, Eſquire, her Son, in haſte.

RIGHT well beloved Brother, I commend me to you, letting you weet, that I am in welfare I thank God, and have been ever ſince that I ſpake laſt with you; and marvel for that ye ſent never writing to me ſince ye departed; I heard never ſince that time any word out of Norfolk; ye might at [1] Bartholomew Fair have had Meſſengers enough to London, and if ye had ſent to Wykes, he ſhould have conveyed it to me. I heard yeſterday, that a Worſted man of Norfolk, that ſold [2] Worſteds at Wincheſter, ſaid, that my Lord of Norfolk and my Lady were on Pilgrimage at [3] Our Lady on foot, and ſo they went to Caiſter; and that at Norwich one ſhould have had large language to you, and called you [4] Traitor, and picked many quarrels to you; ſend me word thereof; it were well done, that ye were a little ſurer of your pardon than ye be, aviſe you, I deem ye will hereafter elſe repent you.

hints to his brother is good, and his anxious concern for the ſafety of his young brethren, gives us a favourable opinion of his kind diſpoſition towards them.

[1] Bartholomew Fair, in Smithfield.

[2] Worſted, in Norfolk, a town formerly famous for the ſpinning of the fine thread, with which the yarn called Worſted is made.

[3] Of Walſingham.

[4] This refers to the part he had taken previous to, and at, the reſtoration of Henry VI.

I undreſtonde y^t^ Baſtarde [5] Faucōbryge is owther hedyd or lyke to be and hys brother bothe; Some men ſeye he wolde have deſervyd it and ſom ſey naye.

I p'poſe to be att London the ffyrſt daye off the terme ſend me worde, whethyr ye ſchall be ther or nott.

It'm I wolde wete whether ye have ſpoken wyth my Lady off Norff' or not and off hyr diſpoſicōn and the howſoldys to me and to yow wardes and whether it be a poſſible to have Caſt' ageyn and ther goodewylles or not; and alſo I praye yow undreſtande what ffelaſchyp and guydyng is in Caſt' and have a ſpye reſortyng in and owt, ſo maye ye know the ſecretys among them. Ther is moche adoo in the Northe as men ſeyn I pray yow be ware off yowr guydyng and in cheff off yowr langage, and ſo y^t^ ffro henſe fforthe by yowr langage noo man p'ceyve y^t^ ye ffavor any p'ſon cōtrary to y^e^ Kynges pleſur. I undreſtonde y^t^ y^e^ Lord [6] Ryu's hathe lycence off y^e^ Kynge to goo to Portyngale now w^t^in thys vij nyght. I pray yow recomande me to my modre and beſeche hyr off hyr blyſſyng on my be halve. *(Here follow ſome directions about payments of money.)* It'm I praye yow ſende me worde iff any off owr ffrendys or wellwyllers be dede, ffor I feer y^t^ ther is grete dethe in Norwyche and in other Borowgh towneſe in Norff',

[5] Thomas Neville, the natural Son of William, Lord Fauconberg, called the Baſtard Fauconberg, having adhered to Henry VI. was, on his taking the Government, appointed Vice Admiral of the Channel, which place, on the change of affairs, he loſt; and being a man of looſe Character, firſt turned Pirate, and then landing, collected a large army, with which he attempted to ſurpriſe London; where being repulſed, he retired, and on the

I underſtand that Baſtard [5] Fauconbridge is either headed, or like to be, and his Brother both; ſome men ſay he would have deſerved it, and ſome ſay nay.

I purpoſe to be at London the firſt day of the term, ſend me word whether ye ſhall be there or not.

Item, I would weet whether ye have ſpoken with my Lady of Norfolk, or not, and of her diſpoſition and the houſehold's to me and to you wards, and whether it be a poſſible *(thing)* to have Caiſter again and their good Wills, or not.

And alſo I pray you underſtand what Fellowſhip and Guiding is in Caiſter; and have a Spy reſorting in and out, ſo may ye know the ſecrets amongſt them.

There is much ado in the North, as men ſay; I pray you beware of your Guiding, and in chief of your language, ſo that from henceforth, by your language no man perceive, that ye favour any perſon contrary to the King's pleaſure.

I underſtand that the Lord [6] Rivers hath Licence of the King to go to Portugal now within this ſeven-night.

I pray you recommend me to my Mother, and beſeech her of her bleſſing on my behalf. *(Here follow ſome directions about payments of money.)*

Item, I pray you ſend me word, if any of our Friends or Wellwillers be dead, for I fear that there is great death in Norwich, and in other Borough Towns in Norfolk; for I en-

King's advancing towards him ſubmitted; when he was not only pardoned, but knighted, and again appointed Vice Admiral. This happened in May 1471, but was of ſhort continuance, for between the 13th and 29th of September following, he was beheaded, though whether for any freſh crime or not is uncertain.

[6] On a Pilgrimage.

Norff', ffor I enſur you it is the moſt unyu'ſall dethe y^t euyr I wyſt in Ingelonde ffor by my trowthe I kan not her by Pylgrymes y^t paſſe y^e contre nor noon other man y^t rydethe or gothe any contre y^t any borow town in Ingelonde is ffree ffrom y^t [7] Sykeneſſe God ſcaſe it whan it pleaſyt hym. Wherffor ffor Goddyſake late my Moodre take heede to my yonge brytheren that they be not in noon place wher that ſykeneſſe is regnyng, nor that they dyſport not w^t noon other yonge peple whyche reſortythe wher any ſykeneſſe is, and iff y^r be any off that ſykeneſſe ded or enffect in Norwyche ffor Goddes ſake lete hyr ſende them to ſom ffrende off hyrſe in to the contre and do ye y^e ſame by myn advyce, late my Moodre rather remeve hyr howſeſolde in to y^e contre.

Even now Thyrſton browt me word ffro London y^t it was Doctor Aleyn y^t cawſyd yowr troble y^t ye had at Norwych, and y^t John Pampȳng roode ffor a dyſcharge ffor yow and y^t he hathe ſped well but hōghe y^t wot I nott, iff ye be cleer owt off Doctor Aleyn danger kepe yow ther and her afftr ye maye ſchoffe as well at hys carte I praye yow ſende me worde off all the fforme off hys delyng w^t yow.

I had almoſt ſpoke w^t Meſtreſſe An' Hault, but I dyd not nevyrtheleſſe thys next terme I hope to take on weye w^t hyr or other ſche is agreyd to ſpeke w^t me and ſche hopythe to doo me eaſe as ſche ſaythe.

[7] I do not find this year marked by our Hiſtorians, as a year of Sickneſs.

I p'ye

ſure [*aſſure*] you, it is the moſt univerſal Death that ever I wiſt in England; for by my truth, I cannot hear by Pilgrims that paſs the country, nor none other man that rideth or goeth any country, that any Borough Town in England is free from that [7] Sickneſs; God ceaſe it, when it pleaſe him.

Wherefore for God's ſake, let my Mother take heed to my young Brethren, that they be not in none place where that Sickneſs is reigning, nor that they diſport not with none other young people, which reſorteth where any ſickneſs is; and if there be any of that ſickneſs dead or enfect [*infected*] in Norwich, for God's ſake, let her ſend them to ſome friend of hers into the country, and do ye the ſame by mine advice; let my Mother rather remove her houſehold into the country.

Even now Thyrſton brought me word from London, that it was Doctor Allen that cauſed your trouble that ye had at Norwich; and that John Pampyng rode for a diſcharge for you, and that he hath ſped well, but how, that wot I not; if ye be clear out of Doctor Allen's danger, keep you there, and hereafter ye may ſcoff as well at his carte [*q. coſt?*]; I pray you ſend me word of all the form of his dealing with you.

I had almoſt ſpoken with Mrs. Anne Hault, but I did not, nevertheleſs this next term I hope to take one way with her or other; ſhe is agreed to ſpeak with me, and ſhe hopeth to do me eaſe, as ſhe ſaith.

I pray

I p'ye yow ſende me worde hoghe ye doo w^t my Lady Elyſabeth Boghſcher ye have a lytell chaffyd it but I can not tell howe, ſende me worde whether ye be in bett' hope or werſe. I her ſeye y^t the Erle off Oxenffordys bretheryn be goon out off [8] Sceyntewarye, S^r. Thom's [9] Fulfforthe is goon owt off Sceyntewarye and a gret ffelaſchyp ffettchyd hym a iij^xx and they ſey y^t w^t in v myle off London he was CC men and no man watethe wher he is become not yit.

The Lordes Haſtyngs and Howerd be in Caleys and have it peſebely and S^r. Walter Wretteſle and S^r. Jeffrey Gate be comyn thenſe and woll be at London thys daye as it is ſeyde.

Wretȳn at Walth'm beſyd Wincheſt' the daye nex [10] Holy Roode daye.

I. P. B.

11 ½ by 11 ¾.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head.
Pl. xi. N° 12.

[8] Till the reign of Henry VIII. all our Churches and Church-yards were Sanctuaries, and protected Traitors, Murderers, &c. if within forty days they acknowledged their fault, and ſubmitted themſelves to baniſhment;—the moſt eminent Sanctuaries in England were St. John's of Beverley, St. Martin's Le Grand, Rippon in Yorkſhire, St. Burien's in Cornwall, and Weſtminſter.

L C T-

I pray you ſend me word how ye do with my Lady Elizabeth Bourchier, ye have a little chaffed it, but I cannot tell how; ſend me word whether ye be in better hope or worſe.

I hear ſay that the Earl of Oxford's Brethren be gone out of [8] Sanctuary. Sir Thomas [9] Fulforth is gone out of Sanctuary, and a great Fellowſhip fetched him, a three ſcore, and they ſay, that within five miles of London he was 200 men, and no man wateth [*knoweth*] where he is become not yet. The Lords Haſtings and Howard be in Calais, and have it peaceably; and Sir Walter Wrotteſly and Sir Jeffrey Gate be coming thence, and will be at London this day as it is ſaid.

Written at Waltham beſide Wincheſter the day next [10] Holy Rood day.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

13th or 15th of September,
1471, 11 E. IV.

[9] Sir Thomas Fulford, was Son of Sir Baldwin Fulford, beheaded at Briſtol, in 1461; he likewiſe ended his life on the Scaffold.

[10] Holyrood day, 14th of September.

LET-

LETTER XLIX.

To hys well belovyd John Paſton eſqēr at Norwyche or to Meſtreſſe Margret hys Modre.

I Comande me to yow letyng yow weet that, &c. *(Here follows an account that the Ducheſs of* [1] *Suffolk and Duke of Norfolk intend again commencing appeals againſt Sir John Paſton and his brother, &c. concerning Caiſter, &c.)* I wolde ffayne have the meſur wher my ffadre lythe at [2] Bromholm bothe the thykneſſe and cōpaſe off the peler at hys hed and ffrom that the ſpace to ye Alter and the thykneſſe off that Alter and Imagery off tymbre werk and what hyght the arche is to the gronde off ye Ilde and how hye the grounde off the Qwyr is hyer than the grownde off ye Ilde.

It'm I praye yowe late the meſur by pekthred be taken or elt meſured by yerde, how moche is ffrom the northe gate ther the brygge was at [3] Greſsh'm to ye ſowthewall, and in lyke fforme ffrom the Eſte ſyde to ye weſt, alſo the hyght off the eſtewall and the hyght off ye ſowtheſt towr ffrom ye grownde iff ye maye eaſely. Alſo what bredde eu'y towr is w'in ye wall and whych towr is moor then other w'in.

We may from this Letter pick out ſome curious particulars relative to the Church of Bromholm Abbey, in Norfolk, and likewiſe form ſome plan of the embattled Manſion of the Paſtons at Greſham, in Norfolk, Buildings which are now both in ruins.

[1] Elizabeth, Siſter of Edward IV.

Alſſo

LETTER XLIII.

To his well beloved John Paſton, Eſquire, at Norwich, or to Mrs. Margaret, his Mother.

I Commend me to you, letting you weet that, &c. *(Here follows an account, that the Ducheſs of* [1] *Suffolk and Duke of Norfolk intend again commencing Appeals againſt Sir John Paſton and his Brother, &c. concerning Caiſter, &c.)* I would fain have the meaſure where my Father lieth at [2] Bromholm; both the thickneſs, and compaſs of the Pillar at his head, and from that, the ſpace to the Altar, and the thickneſs of that Altar, and Imagery of timber work; and what height the Arch is to the ground of the Iſle, and how high the ground of the Choir is higher than the ground of the Iſle.

Item, I pray you let the meaſure by packthread be taken, or elſe meaſured by yard, how much is from the North Gate, where the Brigg was, at [3] Greſham to the South Wall, and in like form from the Eaſt Side to the Weſt; alſo the height of the Eaſt Wall, and the height of the South-eaſt Tower from the ground, if ye may eaſily. Alſo what breadth every Tower is within the Wall, and which Tower is more than other within.

[2] John Paſton was moſt ſumptuouſly buried in the Abbey Church of Bromholm, in 1466; theſe meaſures, I ſuppoſe, were required in order to adopt a Plan for his monument.

[3] This manſion, built by the Stutevilles, was, by licence from Edward II. embattled by the Bacons; Sir William Paſton, the Judge, purchaſed this eſtate.

Alſſo how manye ffote or what brede eche towr takythe w^in iche corner off y^e q'drate [4] ovyrthwert the dorys and how many taylors yards is from y^e moote ſyde wher the brygg was to y^e hyghe weye or to y^e heddge all a longe the entre and what brede the entre is be twyen y^e dykys. I praye yow iff ye have a leyſer in any wyſe ſe thys doone yowrſelffe, iff ye maye or ellys iff Pampyng do it or who y^t, ye thynke can doo it I wolle ſpende xx^d or as ye ſeme to have the ſ'tayn off eu'y thyng her in. And as for my ffaders tombe I charge yow ſe it yowr ſelffe, and when I ſpeke w^t yow I woll tell yow the cawſes why y^t I deſyr thys to be doon.

As ffor tydyngs the Kyng and y^e Qwyen and moche other pepell ar ryden and goon to Canterbery nevyr ſo moche peple ſeyn in [5] Pylgrymage hertofor at ones as men ſeye.

Alſſo it is ſeyde y^t y^e erle of [6] Penbroke is taken on to Brettayn and men ſaye y^t the Kynge ſchall have delyu'e off hym haſtely, and ſom ſeye y^t the Kynge off France woll ſe hym ſaffe and ſchall ſett hym at lyb'te ageyn.

It'm Thom's Fauconbrydge hys hed was yeſt'daye ſett uppon London brydge lokyng into Kent warde and men ſeye y^t hys brother was ſor hurte and ſcope to Seyntwarye to Beu'le.

S^r. Thom's Fulfforthe eſcaped owt of Weſtm' w^t an C ' ſperys as men ſeye and is in to Devenſhyr and ther he hathe ſtrekyn

[4] The Drawing, here given in the Original Letter, is intended, by Sir John Paſton, for a Plan of the Quadrangle at Greſham, and if we ſuppoſe that the projection in the ſide repreſents the Bridge, then that muſt be the North ſide, and ſo we have a complete Ichnography of the whole. See Pl. xi. N° 17.

[5] Perhaps on account of the Sickneſs mentioned in the laſt Letter.

off

Alſo how many foot, or what breadth each Tower taketh within each corner of the Quadrate [4] overthwart the Doors, and how many Taylor's Yards is from the Mote ſide, where the Brigg was, to the highway, or to the hedge all along the Entry, and what breadth the Entry is between the Dikes.

I pray you, if ye have a leiſure in any wiſe, ſee this done yourſelf if ye may, or elſe if Pampyng do it, or who that ye think can do it; I would ſpend 20*d.* or as ye ſeem [*more, if you think proper*], to have the certain of every thing herein.

And as for my Father's Tomb, I charge you ſee it yourſelf, and when I ſpeak with you, I will tell you the cauſes, why that I deſire this to be done.

As for tidings, the King, and the Queen, and much other People, are ridden and gone to Canterbury, never ſo much people ſeen in [5] Pilgrimage heretofore at once, as men ſay.

Alſo it is ſaid, that the Earl of [6] Pembroke is taken unto Bretagne; and men ſay, that the King ſhall have delivery of him haſtily; and ſome ſay, that the King of France will ſee him ſafe, and ſhall ſet him at liberty again.

Item, Thomas Fauconbridge his head was yeſterday ſet upon London Bridge, looking into Kent ward; and men ſay, that his Brother was ſore hurt, and eſcaped to Sanctuary to Beverley.

Sir Thomas Fulforth eſcaped out of Weſtminſter with 100 [7] Spears, as men ſay, and is into Devonſhire, and there he hath

[6] Jaſper Tudor de Hatfield, Earl of Pembroke, half brother to Henry VI. He went into Bretany, to his Nephew, Henry, Earl of Richmond, whom he attended at Boſworth Field, and was by him created Duke of Bedford; he died in 1495.

[7] Spearmen;—men armed with Spears.

off S^r John Crokkers hed and kylt an other knyght off the Corteneys as men ſeye. I wolde ye hadd yowr verry p'don at onys wherfor I praye yow ffayle not to be at London w^tin iiij daye afftr Seynt [8] Feythe ye ſchall do goode in many thynges and I praye yow ſende me worde heroff by the next maſſenger and if it come to Meſtreſſe Elyſabeth Hyggens at y^e blak Swan ſche ſchall conveye it to me ffor I woll not ffayle to be ther at London ageyn w^tin thys vj dayes.

Meſtreſſe Elyſab^th hathe a ſon and was delyu'yd w^tin ij dayes afftr Seynt [9] Bertelmew and hyr Dowtr A. H. was y^e next daye afftr delyu'yd off an other Sone as ſche ſeythe xj weks er hyr tyme it was cryſtened [10] John and is ded God ſave all. No mor tyll I ſpeke w^t yow.

Wretyn at London on Mychellmeſſe Evyn.

I. P. K.

It'm I praye yow late ſome wytty Felaw or ellys yowrſelff goo to y^e townes ther as thes ij women dwelle and inq're whether they be maryed ſyns and ageyn or not, ffor I holde the Hoorys weddyd and iff they be than the appelys wer abbatyd ther by I remēbr not ther names ye knowe them better then I. Alſſo in y^e Schreffvys bookys ther maye ye ffynde off them.

12 by 8 ½.

L C T.

[8] 5th of October.
[9] 24th of Auguſt.
[10] The concluſion of this Letter ſeems to refer to ſome private Amours of Sir John,

(Pl.

ſtricken off Sir John Crokker's head, and killed another Knight of the Courtenays, as men ſay: I would ye had your very [*abſolute*] Pardon at once; wherefore I pray you fail not to be at London within four days after Saint [8] Faith's; ye ſhall do good in many things, and I pray you ſend me word hereof by the next meſſenger; and, if it come to Mrs. Elizabeth Higgens, at the Black Swan, ſhe ſhall convey it to me, for I will not fail to be there at London again within this ſix days.

Mrs. Elizabeth hath a Son, and was delivered within two days after Saint [9] Bartholomew; and her Daughter A. H. was, the next day after, delivered of another Son, as ſhe ſaith, eleven weeks ere her time; it was chriſtened [10] John, and is dead, God ſave all; no more till I ſpeak with you.

Written at London on Michaelmas Even.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Item, I pray you let ſome witty Fellow, or elſe yourſelf, go to the towns there as [*where*] theſe two women dwell, and inquire whether they be married ſince and again or not, for I hold the Hoorys [*Whores*] wedded; and if they be, then the appeals were abated thereby. I remember not their names, ye know them better than I. Alſo in the Sheriff's Books there may ye find of them.

London,
Saturday, 28th of September,
1471, 11 E. IV.

(Pl. IV. N° 10.) and if A. H. ſtand for Anne Hault, ſhe appears to be a Miſtreſs of his; but this is not certain, yet it is probable, by the next Letter but one, that ſhe was his Miſtreſs, as he there ſays, "he will tempt God no more ſo."

LET-

LETTER XLIII.

To my moſt honorabl and Tendre Modre Margrete Paſton be thys Lett' d'd.

MOST worſchypfull and kynde Moodre I comande me to yow and beſeche yow off yowr dayly blyſſyng and remembraunce. Pleaſe it yow to wete thatt I have my [1] pardon as y^e^ berer heroff can informe yow for cõffort wheroffe I have been the marier thys Cryſtmeſſe, and have been parte theroff w^t^ S^r^. Geroge [2] Browen and w^t^ my Lady myn Aunte hys wyffe, and be ffor [3] twelthe I come to my Lorde [4] Archebyſhope wher I have hadde as greete cheer and ben as welkom as I cowde devyſe and iff I hadde ben in ſewerte y^t^ Caſtr weer hadde ageyn I wolde have comen homewards thys daye.

(Here follow directions about Caiſter, and a hope that it might be had again by the latter end of the term, when he would come home, and put his lands and houſes into order.) And I beſeche yow to remembr my brother to doo hys deveyr thatt I maye have agayn my [5] ſtuffe, my bookes and Veſtmẽts and my beddyng how ſo evyr he doo thoghe I ſcholde gyffe xx^ti^ Scutes

[1] For joining the Friends of Henry VI. in order to his reſtoration.
[2] Sir George Browne, Knight, of Beechworth Caſtle, in Surry.
[3] Twelfth day, 6th of January.

LETTER XLIV.

To my moſt honourable and Tender Mother Margaret Paſton, be this Letter delivered.

MOST Worſhipful and kind Mother, I commend me to you, and beſeech you of your daily bleſſing and remembrance. Pleaſe it you to weet, that I have my [1] Pardon, as the Bearer hereof can inform you, for comfort whereof I have been the merrier this Chriſtmas; and have been part thereof with Sir George [2] Browne, and with my Lady mine Aunt his wife; and before [3] Twelfth I came to my [4] Lord [4] Archbiſhop, where I have had as great Cheer, and been as welcome as I could deviſe; and if I had been in ſurety that Caiſter were had again, I would have come home this day.

(*Here follow directions about Caiſter, and a hope that it might be had again by the latter end of the term, when he would come home, and put his lands and houſes into order.*) And I beſeech you to remember my Brother to do his devyr [*endeavour*] that I may have again my [5] ſtuff, my books, and veſtments, and my Bedding howſoever he do, though I ſhould give 20[ty] Scutas

[4] George Neville, Archbiſhop of York.
[5] Theſe were what had been taken at Caiſter, I ſuppoſe.

by

by hys advyſe to my Lady Brandon or ſom' other goode felawe.

As for any tydynges ther be noon heer, ſaffe y^t^ the Kyng hath kept a ryall Cryſtmeſſe and now they ſeye y^t^ haſtelye he woll northe and ſome ſeye y^t^ he woll into Walys and ſome ſeye y^t^ he woll into the Weſt Contre, As ffor Qween [6] Margrett I underſton' y^t^ ſche is remevyd from Wyndeſor to Walyngfforthe nyghe to Ewhelme my Lady of Suff' place in Oxenforthe ſchyre.

And men ſeye y^t^ the Lorde Ryu'ſe ſchyppyd on Cryſtmeſſe evyn in to Portyngale warde I am not ſerteyn.

Alſo the ſchalle be a convocacōn off the Clergye in all haſte whyche men deeme will avayle the Kynge a Dyme and an halffe ſome ſeye. I beſeche God ſende yow goode heele and greater joye in on year then ye have hadde thys vij. Wretyn att the Moor the viij daye off Janeu' A°. E. iiij xj.

By yowr Soone,

? John Paſton, K.

12 by 10 ½.

[6] Margaret, Queen of Henry VI. was taken after the Battle of Tewkeſbury, and continued a Priſoner till 1475, when ſhe was ranſomed by her Father, for 50,000 crowns, which he borrowed of Lewis XI. King of France.

by his advice to my Lady Brandon, or ſome other good Fellow.

As for any tidings there be none here, ſave that the King hath kept a royal Chriſtmas; and now they ſay, that haſtily he will North, and ſome ſay, that he will into Wales, and ſome ſay, that he will into the Weſt Country. As for Queen [6] Margaret, I underſtand that ſhe is removed from Windſor to Wallingford, nigh to Ewelm, my Lady of Suffolk's Place in Oxfordſhire.

And men ſay, that the Lord Rivers ſhipped on Chriſtmas Even into [*unto*] Portugal ward; I am not certain.

Alſo there ſhall be a Convocation of the Clergy in all haſte, which men deem, will avail the King, a Dyme [*Tenth*] and an half, ſome ſay. I beſeech God ſend you good health and greater joy in one year than ye have had theſe ſeven. Written at the Moor the 8th day of January, in the 11th of Edward IV.

By your Son,

[7] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Tueſday,
8th of January, 1471,
11 E. IV.

[7] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LETTER XLII.

A Johan Paſton Eſquier ſoit donê.

BROTHER I comande me to yow and praye yow to loke uppe my [1] tēple off Glaſſe and ſend it me by the berer herof.

It'm as for tydyngs I have ſpoken w[t] Meſtreſſe Anne Hault at a praty leyſer and blyſſyd be God we be as ffer fforthe as we weer toffoor and ſo I hoope we ſchall contenew and I promyſed hyr that at the next leyſer that I kowd ffynde therto y[t] I wolde come ageyn and ſee hyr whyche wyll take a leyſer as deeme now ſyn thys obſervance is over doon. I p'poſe nott to tempte God noo moor ſoo.

Yiſt'day the Kynge the Qween my Lordes of Claraunce and Glowceſt' wente to Scheen to pardon men ſey nott alle in cheryte what wyll falle men can nott ſeye.

The Kynge entretyth my Lorde off Clarance ffor my Lorde of

We have in this Letter a Clue to conduct us towards a diſcovery of the reaſon for the Duke of Glouceſter's diſlike to his Brother the Duke of Clarence, and if this Account be true, it had a reaſonable foundation.

The Duke of Glouceſter was deſirous of marrying Anne (now the widow of Prince Edward, ſo cruelly murdered at Tewkeſbury), Daughter and Coheir of the great Earl of Warwick, and Siſter to Iſabel, Ducheſs of Clarence.

This Alliance we here find was oppoſed by the Duke of Clarence; not from any point of delicacy, reſpecting the murder of this Lady's late Huſband (for, according to our

 Hiſtorians,

LETTER XLV.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, be this Letter delivered.

BROTHER, I commend me to you, and pray you to look up my [1] Temple of Glaſs, and ſend it me by the Bearer hereof.

Item, as for tidings, I have ſpoken with Mrs. Anne Hault, at a pretty leiſure, and bleſſed be God, we be as far forth as we were tofore, and ſo I hope we ſhall continue; and I promiſed her, that at the next leiſure, that I could find thereto, that I would come again and ſee her; which will take a leiſure as (*I*) deem now, ſince this obſervance is over done; I purpoſe not to tempt God no more ſo.

Yeſterday the King, the Queen, my Lords of Clarence, and Glouceſter, went to Shene to pardon; men ſay, not all in charity; what will fall, men cannot ſay.

The King entreateth my Lord of Clarence for my Lord of

Hiſtorians, he was equally concerned in that horrid act with his Brother), but becauſe he did not reliſh the thought of parting with her ſhare of the Poſſeſſions now veſted in him, by his wife Iſabel, the eldeſt Daughter and Coheir of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick; his apparent deſign being to deprive the younger Daughter of her Moiety of her paternal Inheritance, and retain it all himſelf.

This was the part not only of a covetous, but of an unjuſt man, and very probably produced that ſpirit of revenge, which afterwards ended in his deſtruction.

[1] A Poem, written by Stephen Hawes, who flouriſhed in the 15th Century.

of Glowceſt' and as itt is ſeyde he anſwerythe that he may weell have my Ladye hys Suſt' in lawe butt they ſchall parte no lyvelod as he ſeythe ſo what wyll falle can I nott ſeye.

Thys daye I p'poſe to ſee my Lady off [2] Norff' ageyn in goode howr be it.

Ther is proferyd me Marchãnts ffor Sporle woode God ſende me goode Sale whan I be gynne y[t] poor woode is ſoor manaſhed and threttt.

Yitt woote I nott whether I come home beffoor Eſt'ne or nott. I ſchall ſende yow worde no moor, &c.

Wretyn the ffyrſt teweſdaye off Lenton.

[3] John Paſton, K.

11 ½ by 7 ½.

[2] Elizabeth, Ducheſs of Norfolk, was the Daughter of John Talbot, the firſt Earl of Shrewſbury.

LETTER XLIV.

To my ryght Worchepfull brodyr S[r]. John Paſton knyght.

RYGHT worchepfull S[r]. I recomand me to yow. *(Here follows an Account of ſome money tranſactions, &c.)* It'. Maſtyr John Smythe tellyth me y[t] S[r]. T. Lyneys Goodys ar not abyll to paye a q'rter of hys detts y[t] be axyd hym, wherfor ſyche

Glouceſter; and as it is ſaid, he anſwereth, that he may well have my Lady his Siſter in law, but they ſhall part no Livelihood, as he ſaith, ſo what will fall can I not ſay.

This day I purpoſe to ſee my Lady of [2] Norfolk again, in good hour be it!

There is proffered me Merchants for Sporle wood, God ſend me good Sale, when I begin; that poor Wood is ſorely managed and treated.

Yet wot I not whether I come home before Eaſter or not, I ſhall ſend you word; no more, &c.

Written the firſt Tueſday of Lent.

[3] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Tueſday,
17th of February, 1471,
11 E. IV.

[3] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LETTER XLVI.

To my right worſhipful Brother, Sir John Paſton, Knight.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you. (*Here follows an Account of ſome money tranſactions, &c.*) Item, Maſter John Smythe telleth me, that Sir T. Lyney's Goods are not able to pay a quarter of his debts that be aſked him,

ſyche money as is be left it moſt be [1] devydyd to eu'y man a p'te aftyr the quantyte whyche dyvyſyon is not yet mad, but when it is mad he hathe promyſeyd me y^t yo^r part ſhalbe worthe [1] iij the beſt, &c.

It' as for I of Barneys hors whoſo have leeſt need to hym he ſhall coſt hym xx marks not a peny leſſe.

Ye ſend me woord of y^e maryage of my Lady Jane, ō maryage for an other on Norſe and Bedford were [2] axed in the chyrche on ſonday laſt paſt. As for my Syſt' Anne my modyr wyll not remeve fro W. Yellu'ton for Bedyngfeld for ſhe hathe comend ferther in y^t mater ſyn ye wer in y^is contre as it aperyth in hyr lettyr y^t ſhe ſendyth yow by Thyrſton.

Tydyngs her my Lady of Norff' is w^t chyld ſhe wenyth hyrſylf and ſo do all y^e women abowght hyr inſomyche ſhe waytys the qwyknȳg w^t in thes vj wekys at the fertheſt. Alſo W. Gernay wenyth that Heydon is ſwyr of Saxthorp and that Lady Boleyn of Gwton. John Oſberne avyſythe yow to take brethe for yo^r Wodſale at Sporle for he hathe caſt it that it is woorthe as good as ix^xxli bewar of Montayn for he may not pay yow ſo moche mony w^t hys eaſe.

I prey yow recomand me to S^r. John Parre w^t all my ſervys and tell hym by my trouthe I longyd never ſorer to ſee my Lady than I do to ſe hys Maſt'ſhepe And I prey God that he aryſe never a mornȳg fro my Lady hys wyff w^t owght

[1] The proportioning of the Money left, amongſt the Creditors, to pay the debts ſeems to be fair, but how Sir John's part ſhould be juſtly worth three the beſt I do not underſtand.

it

wherefore ſuch money as is beleft, it muſt be [1] divided to every man a part after the quantity, which diviſion is not yet made, but when it is made he hath promiſed me, that your part ſhall be worth [1] three the beſt, &c.

Item, as for I. of Barney's Horſe, whoſo hath leaſt need to him, he ſhall coſt him 20 marks (13l. 6s. 8d.) not a penny leſs.

Ye ſent me word of the marriage of my Lady Jane; one marriage for another one, Norſe and Bedford were [2] aſked in the church on Sunday laſt paſt.

As for my Siſter Anne, my Mother will not remove from W. Yelverton for Bedyngfeld, for ſhe hath communed farther in that matter, ſince ye were in this country, as it appeareth in her Letter, that ſhe ſendeth you by Thyrſton.

Tidings here, my Lady of Norfolk is with child ſhe weneth [*thinketh*] herſelf, and ſo do all the women about her, inſomuch ſhe waits the quickening within theſe ſix weeks at the fartheſt. Alſo W. Gernay weneth that Heydon is ſure of Saxthorp, and that Lady Boleyn, of Guyton.

John Oſbern adviſeth you to take breath for the Wood ſale at Sporle, for he hath caſt it, that it is worth as good as nine ſcore pounds. Beware of Montayn, for he may not pay you ſo much money with his eaſe.

I pray you recommend me to Sir John Parre with all my ſervice, and tell him by my truth, I longed never ſorer to ſee my Lady than I do to ſee his Maſterſhip; and I pray God that he ariſe never a morning from my Lady his wife, without

[2] Banns of marriage we here find were publiſhed at this time in the Church.

it

it be ageyn hyr wyll tyll ſyche tyme as he bryng hyr to Our Lady of Walſyghm.

Alſo I prey yow to recomand me in my moſt humbyll wyſe onto ye good Lordſhepe of ye moſt corteys gentyleſt wyſeſt kyndeſt moſt compenabyll freeſt largeeſt moſt bowntefous knyght my Lord the Erle of [3] Arran whych hathe maryed the Kyngs Suſtyr of Scotland. Herto he is on' the lyghteſt delynerſt beſt ſpokyn fayreſt Archer devowghteſt moſt p'fyghte and treweſt to hys Lady of all the Knyghtys that ever I was aqweyntyd wt ſo wold God my Lady lyekyd me as well as I do hys perſon and moſt knyghtly condycyons wt whom I prey yow to be aqweyntyd as yow ſemyth beſt he is lodgyd at ye George in Lombard ſtreet, he hath a book of my Syſtr. Annys of ye Sege of Thebes when he hathe doon with it he p'myſyd to delyver it yow I prey lete Portland bryng ye book hom wt hym. Portland is loggyd at ye George in Lombard ſtreet alſo.

And thys I promyſe yow ye ſchall not be ſo longe ayen wt ought a byll fro me as ye have ben thow I ſhold wryght how ofte the wynd changyth for I ſe be yor wryghtyng ye can be wrothe and ye wyll [4] for lytyll. croſſe it Wretyn the v day of June.

[5] J. Paſton.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. x. N° 1.

[3] Thomas Boyd, Earl of Arran, in 1466, married Mary, Daughter of James II. and Siſter of James the III. Kings of Scotland. He was appointed Regent, but becoming unpopular was baniſhed, and died in exile before 1474.

LET-

it be againſt her will, till ſuch time as he bring her to Our Lady of Walſingham.

Alſo I pray you to recommend me in my moſt humble wiſe unto the good Lordſhip of the moſt courteous, gentleſt, wiſeſt, kindeſt, moſt companionable, freeſt, largeſt, and moſt bounteous Knight, my Lord the Earl of [3] Arran, which hath married the King's Siſter of Scotland. Hereto he is one the lighteſt, delyverſt [*nimbleſt*], beſt ſpoken, faireſt archer; devouteſt, moſt perfect, and trueſt to his Lady of all the Knights that ever I was acquainted with; ſo would God, my Lady liked me as well as I do his perſon and moſt knightly conditions, with whom I pray you to be acquainted, as (*to*) you ſeemeth beſt; he is lodged at the George in Lombard-ſtreet. He hath a book of my Siſter Anne's of the Siege of Thebes, when he hath done with it, he promiſed to deliver it you. I pray you let Portland bring the book home with him. Portland is lodged at the George in Lombard-ſtreet alſo.

And this I promiſe you, ye ſhall not be ſo long again without a bill from me, as ye have been, though I ſhould write how oft the wind changeth, for I ſee by your writing ye can be

wrath and ye will [4] (croſs it) for little.

Written the 5th day of June.

[5] JOHN PASTON.

5th of June, 1472, 12 E. IV.
(Or perhaps it may be 5th of June, 1470, 10 E. IV. ſee Letter XXXIV.)

[4] Theſe two words are croſſed as here repreſented, and over them is written, "croſſe it."
[5] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

LETTER XLVI.

To my ryght truſty ffrend John Carenton Baylye of Maldon.

RYGHT truſty frend I comand me to yow preyīg yow to call to yo^{r} mynd that lyek as ye and I comonyd of it were neceſſary for my Lady and you all hyr Serūnts and teñnts to have thys p'lement as for ōn of the Burgeys of the towne of Maldon ſyche a man of worthep and of wytt as wer towardys my ſeyd Lady and alſo ſyche on as is in favor of the Kyng and of the Lords of hys conſayll nyghe abought hys p'ſone. Sertyfyīg yow that my ſeid Lady for hyr parte and ſyche as be of hyr conſayll be moſt agreeabyll that bothe ye and all ſyche as be hyr fermors and teñntys and' weſtwyllers ſhold geve your voyſe to a worchepfull knyght and on' of my Ladys conſayll S^{r}. John Paſton whyche ſtandys gretly in favore w^{t} my Lord Chamberleyn and what my ſeyd Lord Chamberleyn may do w^{t} the Kyng and w^{t} all the Lordys of Inglond I trowe

This Letter exhibits to us almoſt a Picture of modern manners, in the terms and addreſs uſed in recommending a Member of Parliament to the Corporation of Maldon. The Agent of the great Lady writes to the Bailiff of the Borough, and to the Tenants, &c. to uſe their influence with the Electors in favour of Sir John Paſton, a Friend of the Lady's, in the good graces of the King, and in the intereſt of the Council, and the Lord Chamberlain.

It appears too, that a Seat in Parliament was then an object of purſuit, and not a burden laid upon the Repreſentative, as we are informed by ſome of our Hiſtorians; and

LETTER XLVII.

To my right truſty Friend John Carenton, Bailiff of Maldon.

RIGHT Truſty Friend, I commend me to you, praying you to call to your mind, that like as ye and I communed of, it were neceſſary for my Lady and you all, her Servants, and Tenants, to have this Parliament as for one of the Burgeſſes of the Town of Maldon, ſuch a man of worſhip and of wit as were towards my ſaid Lady; and alſo ſuch one as is in favour of the King, and of the Lords of his Council nigh about his perſon; certifying you, that my ſaid Lady for her part, and ſuch as be of her council be moſt agreeable, that both ye, and all ſuch as be her Farmers, and Tenants, and Well-willers, ſhould give your voice to a worſhipful Knight, and one of my Lady's Council, Sir John Paſton; which ſtands greatly in favour with my Lord Chamberlain; and what my ſaid Lord Chamberlain may do with the King and with all the Lords of

and we are apt to ſuppoſe that there is now more intereſt made and more bribery uſed in obtaining a ſeat in the Houſe of Commons than there was 300 years ago; the deſire of parliamentary Intereſt, we here ſee, was much the ſame.—Engines were ſet at work, the Patronage of the Great was held out, and promiſes were made even as at this day; and though the Friends of a Candidate would not now come from divers parts of the County to Norwich, (*ſee the next Letter*) break their faſts, and return home again at the expence of the Candidate, for a bill amounting to *nine ſhillings and one penny halfpenny*, yet the motive is ſtill the ſame, the Manners, Cuſtoms, and Expences of the times forming the only difference.

I trowe it be not unknowyn to you moſt of eny on man alyve. Wherefor by the meenys of the ſeyd S^r. John Paſton to my ſeyd Lord Chamberleyn bothe my Lady and ye of the towne kowd not have a meeter man to be for yow in the perlement to have yo^r needys ſped at all ſeaſons. Wherfor I prey yow labor all ſyche as be my Ladys ſerūntts tenntts and wellwyllers to geve ther voyſeys to the ſeyd S^r. John Paſton and that ye fayle not to ſped my Ladys intent in thys mater as ye entend to do hyr as gret a pleſur as if ye gave hyr an C^li. And God have yow in hys kepīg Wretyn at Fyſheley the xx day of Septēbyr.

[1] J. Arblaſter.

I prey yow be redy w^t all the Acōptanttys belongȳg to my Lady at the fertheſt w^tin viij dayes next aftyr Perdon Sonday for then I ſhall be w^t yow w^t Gods Grace who have yow in keepȳg.

11 ½ by 7.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star,
Pl. x. N° 1.

N. B. Under the Direction, and in a ſimilar hand is written,
A°. E. iiij^ti xij°.

[1] James Arblaſter, Eſquire, a Gentleman of Fortune in the County of Norfolk. Pl. v. N° 21.

England, I trow it be not unknown to you moſt of any one man alive. Wherefore, by the means of the ſaid Sir John Paſton to my ſaid Lord Chamberlain, both my Lady and ye of the town could not have a meeter [*properer*] man to be for you in the Parliament, to have your needs ſped [*intereſts forwarded*] at all ſeaſons. Wherefore I pray you labour all ſuch as be my Lady's Servants, Tenants, and Wellwillers, to give their voices to the ſaid Sir John Paſton, and that ye fail not to ſpeed my Lady's intent in this matter, as ye intend to do her as great a pleaſure, as if ye gave her an 100*l.* And God have you in his keeping. Written at Fiſhly, the 20th day of September.

[1] JAMES ARBLASTER.

I pray you be ready with all the Accounts belonging to my Lady, at the fartheſt within eight days next after Pardon Sunday, for then I ſhall be with you with God's Grace, who have you in keeping.

Fiſhly,
Sunday, 20th of September,
1472, 12 E. IV.

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LETTER XLVIII.

To my ryght worchepfull Brodyr Sr. John Paſton knyght.

RYGHT worchepfull Sr. I recomand me to yow letyng yow wet yt yor deſyer as for the Knyghts of the [1] Shyer was an ĩpoſſoybyl to be browght abowght ffor my Lord of [2] Norff and my Lord of [3] Suff wer agreid i mor then a fortnyght go to have Sr. Robt Wyngfeld and Sr. Rychard Harcort and that knew I not tyll it was fryday laſt paſt I had ſent or I rod to Framlynh'm to warne as many of yor frends to be at Norwyche as thys monday to ſerve yor entent as I koud, but when I cam to Framlyñh'm and knew the apoỹtmẽt that was taken for the ij Knyghts I ſent warnỹg ayen to as many I myght to tery at hom and yet ther cam to Norwyche thys day as many as ther coſts dreave to Ixs. id. ob. payid and reknyd by Pekok and R. Capron and yet they dyd but brak ther feſt and depertyd And I thankyd hem in yor name and told them that ye wold have noo voyſe as thys day for ye ſuppoſyd not to be in Inglond when the perlement ſhold be And ſo they cam not at the ſherhous for if they had it was thought by ſyche as be yr frends her that yor adu'ſarys wold have reportyd yt ye had mad

[1] For the County of Norfolk.
[2] John Mowbray.

labor

LETTER XLVIII.

To my right worſhipful Brother Sir John Paſton, Knight.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that your deſire, as for the Knights of the [1] Shire, was an impoſſible *(thing)* to be brought about; for my Lord of [2] Norfolk and my Lord of [3] Suffolk, were agreed, more than a fortnight ago, to have Sir Robert Wyngfield, and Sir Richard Harcourt, and that knew I not till Friday laſt paſt. I had ſent, ere I went to Framlingham, to warn as many of your friends, to be at Norwich, as this Monday, to ſerve your intent, as I could; but when I came to Framlingham, and knew the appointment that was taken for the two Knights, I ſent warning again to as many as I might, to tarry at home; and yet there came to Norwich this day as many as their coſts drew to 9*s.* 1*d.* ½. paid and reckoned by Peacock and R. Capron; and yet they did but break their faſts and departed; and I thanked them in your name, and told them that ye would have no voice as this day, for ye ſuppoſed not to be in England when the Parliament ſhould be; and ſo they came not at the Shire-houſe, for if they had, it was thought by ſuch as be your friends here, that your Adverſaries would have reported, that ye had made labour

[3] John de la Pole.

to

labor to have ben on' and y^t ye koud not bryñg yo^r p'poſe abowght.

I ſent to Yermowthe and they have p'myſyd alſo to Doctor Aleyn and John Ruſſe to be mor then iij wekys goo.

Jamys Arblaſt' hathe wretyn a lett' to the bayle of Maldon in Eſſex to have yow a Bergeys ther howe Iwde ſhall ſped let hym tell yow when ye ſpek to gedyr.

Syr I have ben twyis at Framlȳgh'm ſythe yo^r dep'tyng but now the laſt tyme the [4] Conſayll was ther, I ſye yow lettyr whyche was bettyr then well endyghtyd R C. was not at Framlȳgh'm when the Conſayll was ther but I took myn owne avyſe and delyu'erd it to the conſayll w^t a p'pocyſion ther w^t as well as I kowd ſpek it, and my wordys wer well takyn but yo^r lett a thouſand fold bettyr when they had red it they ſhewyd it to my [5] Lady aftyr that my Lady had ſen it I ſpok w^t my Lady offrȳg to my Lord and her your ſeruyſe and beſyd y^t ye to do my Lord a [6] pleſur and hyr a bettyr ſo as ye myght depert w^t ought eny ſome ſpecyfyid. She wold not tell in that mater but remyttyd me ayen to the conſayll for ſhe ſeyd and ſhe ſpeke in it tyll my Lord and the conſayll wer agreed they wold ley the wyght of all the mater on hyr whyche ſhold be reportyd to hyr ſhame but thys ſhe promyſeid to be helpyng ſo it wer fyrſt mevyd by the conſayll, then I went to the conſayll and offyrd befor them yo^r ſervyſe to my Lord and to do hym a pleſure

[4] We have here a curious deſcription of the Council of a great man, and find it compoſed of Gentlemen of family and fortune. Matters reſpecting the property of their Lord come before them, they debate upon the ſubject, and deliver their opinion; but if that opinion differed from that of the great man, we find he took the liberty of adopting his own.

for

to have been one, and that ye could not bring your purpoſe about.

I ſent to Yarmouth, and they have promiſed alſo to Doctor Aleyn and John Ruſſe to be (*Burgeſſes*) more than three weeks ago.

James Arblaſter hath written a Letter to the Bailiff of Maldon, in Eſſex, to have you a Burgeſs there; how Jude ſhall ſpeed, let him tell you, when ye ſpeak together.

Sir, I have been twice at Framlingham, ſince your departing, but now the laſt time the [4] Council was there; I ſaw your Letter which was better than well endited. R. C. was not at Framlingham when the Council was there, but I took my own advice, and delivered it to the Council with a propoſition therewith, as well as I could ſpeak it; and my words were well taken, but your Letter a thouſand fold better; when they had read it, they ſhewed it to my [5] Lady; after that my Lady had ſeen it, I ſpoke with my Lady, offering to my Lord and her your ſervice, and beſides that, ye to do my Lord a [6] pleaſure and her a better, ſo as ye might depart without any ſum ſpecified; ſhe would not tell in that matter, but remitted me again to the Council, for ſhe ſaid, and ſhe ſpoke in it, till my Lord and the Council were agreed, they would lay the weight of all the matter on her, which ſhould be reported to her ſhame; but this ſhe promiſed to be helping, ſo it were firſt moved by the Council; then I went to the Council, and offered before them your ſervice to my Lord, and to do him a pleaſure, for the

[5] Elizabeth, Ducheſs of Norfolk.

[6] Make him a preſent.

for y^e^ haveīg ayen of yo^r^ place and londys in Caſt' xl^li^ not ſpekȳg of yo^r^ ſtuff nor thyng ellys, ſo they anſwerd me yo^r^ offyr was more then reſonabyll and if the mater wer thers they ſeyd they wyſt what conſcyence wold dryve hem to they ſeyd they wold meve my Lord w^t^ it and ſo they dyd, but then the tempeſt aros and he gave hem ſyche an anſwer that non of hem all wold tell it me, but when I axid an anſwer of hem they ſeyd and ſom Lordys or gretter men mevyd my Lord w^t^ it the (kepe conſaile) mater wer your and w^t^ thys anſwer I depertyd but S^r^. W. Brandon Sothewell Tymp'ley Herry Wentworthe, W. Gornay and all other of conſayll undyrſtand that ye have wronge inſomyche that they mevyd me that ye ſhold take a recompence of other lond to the valew but they wold not avowe the offyr for I anſerd hem that if y^er^ had ryght they wold have ofred no recompence dyſcovyr not thys but in my reaſon and my Lord [7] Chamb'leyn wold ſend my Lady a Lett' w^t^ ſome p'uy tokyn betwyx theym and allſo to meve my Lord of Norff^k^ when he comyth to the p'lement ſerteynly Caſt' is yours.

If ye myſſe to be Burgeys of Maldon and my Lord Chamb'leyn wyll ye may be in a nother plaſe ther be a doſeyn townys in Inglond that cheſſe no bergeys whyche ought to do and ye may be ſet in for on' of thoſe townys and ye be frendyd. Alſo in no wyſe forget not in all haſt to get ſome goodly ryng pryſe of xx^s^ or ſom praty flowyr of the ſame pryſe and not undyr to geve to Jane Rodon for ſhe hathe ben the moſt ſpecyall laborer in yo^r^ mater and hathe promyſyd hyr good wyll foorthe

[7] William, Lord Haſtings.

having again of your Place, and Lands in Caiſter 40*l.* not ſpeaking of your Stuff nor thing elſe; ſo they anſwered me your offer was more than reaſonable, and if the matter were theirs, they ſaid, they wiſt [*knew*] what Conſcience would drive them to, they ſaid, they would move my Lord with it, and ſo they did; but then the Tempeſt aroſe, and he gave them ſuch an anſwer, that none of them all would tell it me; but when I aſked an anſwer of them they ſaid; "And [*if*] ſome "Lords or greater men moved my Lord with it, the matter were "yours"; (*keep counſel*) and with this anſwer I departed, but Sir W. Brandon, Southwell, Tymperley, Harry Wentworth, W. Gorney, and all other of council underſtand that ye have wrong; in ſo much that they moved me that ye ſhould take a recompence of other land to the value, but they would not avow the offer; for I anſwered them, if they had right they would have offered no recompence; diſcover not this, but in my reaſon, and [*if*] my Lord Chamberlain would ſend my Lady a Letter with ſome privy token between them, and alſo to move my Lord of Norfolk when he cometh to the Parliament, certainly Caiſter is yours.

If ye miſs to be Burgeſs of Maldon, and my Lord Chamberlain will, ye may be in another place; there be a dozen Towns in England that chooſe no Burgeſs, which ought to do it, ye may be ſet in for one of thoſe Towns and [*if*] ye be friended. Alſo in any wiſe forget not in all haſte to get ſome goodly ring (*at the*) price of 20*s.* or ſome pretty Flower of the ſame price, and not under, to give to Jane Rodon; for ſhe hath been the moſt ſpecial labourer in your matter, and hath promiſed her

and ſhe doeth all w^t hyr maſtreſſe And my Lord Chamberleyn wyll he may cauſe my Lord of Norff' to com up ſoner to the p'lement then he ſhold do and then he may apoynt w^thym for yow or y^e [8] ferm corn be gadryd. I profyrd but xl^li and if my Lord Chamberleyn profyr my Lady the remeñnt I can thynk it ſhall be taken my Lady muſt have ſomwhat to bye hyr [9] Kovercheff beſyd my Lord a Soper y^t I payd for wher all the conſayll was at Framlygh'm ij^s iij^d and my coſts at Framlygh'm twyis lyīg ther by viij dayis w^t ix^s i^d ob. for coſts of y^e contre at Norwyché drawyth abowght xx^s I trowe more by our Lady if it be leſſe ſtand to your harmys and ſic remanet v^li xiij^s iii^d.

I axe no more gods of you for all the ſervyſe y^t I ſhall do yow whyll the world ſtandyth but a [10] Goſshawke if eny of my Lord Chamb'leyns men or yours goo to Kaleys or if eny be to get in London that is a mewyd hawk for ſhe may make yow ſporte when ye com into Inglond a doſeyn yer hens, and to call upon yow owyrly nyghtly dayly dyner ſoper for thys hawk I pray noo more but my brodyr E. J. Pampȳg Thyrſton I. Myryel W. Pytte T. Plattyng Jwde lityll Jak Maſtyr Boton' and W. Wood to boote to whyche perſons I prey yow to comand me and if all thes lyſt to ſpek to yow of thys mater when S^r. George Browne W. Knyvett R. Hyd or eny folk of worchepp

[8] Corn paid in part of Rent.

[9] A Head Dreſs, or Handkerchief.

[10] From the anxiety here expreſſed for an Hawk, we may judge of the attention which was paid to the Diverſion of Hawking.

Latham,

good will forth [*in future*]; and ſhe doth all with her Miſtreſs. And [*if*] my Lord Chamberlain will, he may cauſe my Lord of Norfolk to come up ſooner to the Parliament than he ſhould do, and then he may appoint with him for you, ere the [8] farm corn be gathered. I proffered but 40*l.* and if my Lord Chamberlain proffer my Lady the remanent, I can think it ſhall be taken; my Lady muſt have ſomewhat to buy her a [9] Coverchief beſides my Lord.

A ſupper that I paid for, where all the Council was at Framlingham 2*s.* 3*d.* and my coſts at Framlingham twice lying there by eight days, with 9*s.* 1*d.* ½. for coſts of the Country at Norwich draweth about 20*s.* I trow more. By our Lady if it be leſs ſtand to your harms, and ſic remanet 5*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

I aſk no more good of you for all the ſervice, that I ſhall do you while the world ſtandeth, but a [10] Goſs Hawk, if any of my Lord Chamberlain's men or yours go to Calais, or if any be to get in London, that is, a mewed Hawk, for ſhe may make you ſport when ye come into England a dozen years hence; and to call upon you hourly, nightly, daily, dinner, ſupper, for this Hawk, I pray no more but my brother (*Edmund*), J. Pampyng, Thyrſton, J. Myryel, W. Pitt, T. Platting, Jude, little Jack, Maſter Botoner and W. Wood to boot, to which Perſons I pray you to commend me, and if all theſe liſt [*be diſpoſed*] to ſpeak to you of this matter when Sir George Browne, W. Knyvet, R. Hyde,

Latham, in his book of Falconry, ſays, that a Goſhawk is the firſt and moſt eſteemed kind of Hawk; that a Sore Hawk is from the firſt taking of her from the eiry, till ſhe hath mewed her feathers.

The Taſſel, or Tiercel, is the male of the Goſhawk, ſo called, becauſe it is a tierce or third leſs than the female: it appears here, that a Groſſer, or Dealer in foreign Fruits, &c. ſold Hawks.

worchepp and of my aqweyntanſe be in yor compeny ſo yt they may helpe forthe for all is lytyll i nowe and ye be not u'y well wyllȳg, I ſhall ſo p'uey for hem and ever ye com to Norwyche and they wtyow that they ſhall have as deynte vytayll and as gret [11] plente therof for 1d as they ſhall have of the treſorer of Caleys for xvd. And ye p'aventure a Pye of Wymondh'm to boote, now thynk on me good Lord for if I have not an Hawke I ſhall wax fatt for default of labor and ded for default of company by my trowthe no more but I pray God ſend you all your deſyrs and me my mwyd Goſshawk in haſt or rather yen fayle a Sowyr Hawke ther is a Groſſer dwellȳg ryght ou'ayenſt the well wt ij boketts a lytyll fro Seynt Elens hathe evyr Hawkys to ſell.

Wretyn at Norwyche the xxj day of September A°. E. iiijti xij°.

[12] J. P.

Rather then faylle a Tarſell provyd wyll occupy the tyme tyll I com to Caleys.

11 ½ by 8 ½,
Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. x. N° 9.

[11] The Attendance on the wars in France, and in our Garriſons there, muſt have been very expenſive by this account of the difference in the price of Proviſions at Calais and at Norwich.

or any folk of worſhip and of my acquaintance be in your company, ſo that they may help forth, (for all is little enough, and [*if*] ye be not very well willing) I ſhall ſo purvey for them, and ever ye come to Norwich, and they with you, that they ſhall have as dainty victuals and as great [11] plenty thereof for 1*d.* as they ſhall have of the Treaſurer of Calais for 15*d.* and ye peradventure, a Pye of Wymondham to boot; now think on me good Lord, for if I have not an Hawk, I ſhall wax fat for default of labour, and dead for default of company by my truth. No more but I pray God ſend you all your deſires, and me my mewed Goſs Hawk in haſte, or rather than fail, a Soar Hawk, there is a Groſſer dwelling right over againſt the Well with two Buckets a little from Saint Helen's hath ever Hawks to ſell.

Written at Norwich the 21ſt day of September, in the 12th year of Ed. IV.

[12] JOHN PASTON.

Rather then fail a Tarſſel proved will occupy the time till I come to Calais.

Norwich, Monday, 21ſt of September,
1472, 12 E. IV.

[11] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

LET-

LETTER XLV.

A Johan Paſton eſquyer ſoit doné.

WORSHYPFULL and weell belovyd brother I recomand me to yow letyng yow weet y^{t} I ſente yow a Lett' and a Rynge w^{t} a Dyamond in whyche Lett' ye myght well conceyve, what I wold ye ſcholde do w^{t} y^{e} ſame rynge, w^{t} menye other tydyngs and thyngs whyche I prayed yowe to have doon for me, whyche Lett' [1] Boton' had the beryng off, it is ſo nowe y^{t} I undreſtond that he is owther deed or ellys harde eſkapyd, wheroff I am ryght hevye, and am not ſerteyn whethyr the ſeyd Lett' and rynge come to yowr handys or nott. I wolde nott that lett' wer ſeyn w^{t} ſome folkys, wherffor I praye yow take good heede hoghe that lett' comythe to yowr handys hooll or brokyn and in eſpeciall I praye yow gete it iff ye have it nott.

Alſo I praye yow feele my Lady off Norfolks dyſpoſicōn to me wards and whethyr ſhe toke any dyſpleſur at my langage or mokkyd or dyſdeyned my words whyche I hadd to hyr at Yarmothe be twyen the place wher I ffyrſt mett w^{t} hyr and hyr lodgyng, ffor my Lady Brandon and [2] S^{r}. Will'm alſo

This Letter contains but little information, it is however given as containing a ſpecimen of the free and eaſy converſation of the time, and ſhows the very intimate acquaintance that ſubſiſted between Sir J. Paſton and the Ducheſs of Norfolk.

[1] William Botoner, otherwiſe Worceſter.

axhyd

LETTER XLIX.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, be this delivered.

WORSHIPFUL and well beloved Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that I ſent you a Letter and a Ring with a Diamond; in which Letter ye might well conceive, what I would ye ſhould do with the ſame Ring, with many other tidings and things which I prayed you to have done for me; which Letter [1] Botoner had the bearing of; it is ſo now that I underſtand that he is either dead, or elſe hard eſcaped; whereof I am right heavy; and am not certain whether the ſaid Letter and Ring came to your hands or not.

I would not that Letter were ſeen with ſome folks, wherefore I pray you take good heed, how that letter cometh to your hands, whole or broken, and in eſpecial I pray you get it, if ye have it not.

Alſo I pray you feel my Lady of Norfolk's diſpoſition to me wards, and whether ſhe took any diſpleaſure at my language, or mocked, or diſdained, my words which I had to her at Yarmouth, between the place where I firſt met with her, and her lodging; for my Lady Brandon and [2] Sir William alſo

[2] Sir William Brandon, Knight, was Standard-bearer to the Earl of Richmond, and was ſlain in Boſworth Field, by Richard III. He was father to Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk.

axhyd me what words I had had to hyr at that tyme. They ſeyd y^t my Lady ſeyde I * gaff hyr ther off, and y^t I ſholde have ſeyde y^t my Lady was worthye to have a Lords Soon in hyr belye ffor ſhe cowde cheryſhe itt and dele warlye w^t it, in trowthe owther the ſame or words moche lyke I had to hyr whyche wordys I ment as I ſeyde, they ſeye to y^t I ſeyde ſhe toke hyr eaſe, Alſo I ſcholde have ſeyde y^t my Ladye was off ſatur goode and had ſydes longe and large ſo that I was in goode hope ſhe ſholde ber a fayr chylde, he was nott lacyd nor bracyd ine to hys peyn but y^t ſhe left hym rome to pleye hym in, and they ſeye that I ſeyde my Lady was large and grete and that itt ſholde have rome inow to goo owt att, and thus whyther my Lady mokk me or theye I woote nott, I mente weell by my trowthe to hyr and to y^t ſhe is w^t as any he y^t owythe heer beſt wyll in Ingelond.

Iff ye can by any meed weete whethyr my Ladye take it to dyſpleſur or nowt or whether ſhe thynke I mokkyd hyr or iff ſhe wyght it but lewdneſſe off my ſelffe I pray yow ſende me worde, ffor I weet nott whethyr I maye truſt thys Lady Brandon or nott.

It'm as ffor tydyngs nowe heer be but ffewe ſaff that as I undreſtande Imbaſſators off Bretayn' ſhall come to London to morawe And men ſeye that the Lorde [3] Ryverſe and Scalys ſhall haſtelye come hom' and men ſeye y^t ther is many off the ſowders y^t went to hym into Bretayne been dede off the

[3] Anthony Woodville, Earl Rivers, &c. went to endeavour to obtain the poſſeſſion of the Earls of Pembroke and Richmond, who were detained as Priſoners by the Duke of Britany.

aſked me what words I had had to her at that time; they ſaid, that my Lady ſaid I *gave her thereof, and that I ſhould have ſaid, that my Lady was worthy to bear a Lord's Son, for ſhe could cheriſh it, and deal warily with it.

In truth either the ſame, or words much like, I had to her, which words I meant as I ſaid; they ſay too, that I ſaid ſhe took her eaſe. Alſo (*that*) I ſhould have ſaid, that my Lady was of Stature good, and had ſides long and large, ſo that I was in good hope ſhe ſhould bear a fair child, he was not laced, nor braced in, to his pain, but that ſhe left him room to play him in; they ſay, that I ſaid my Lady was large and great, and that it ſhould have room enough; and thus whether my Lady mock me, or they, I wot not; I meant well by my truth to her, and to that ſhe is with, as any he that oweth her beſt will in England; if ye can by any mean weet, whether my Lady take it to diſpleaſure or not, or whether ſhe think I mocked her, or if ſhe weet it but lewdneſs of myſelf, I pray you ſend me word, for I wot not whether I may truſt this Lady Brandon or not.

As for tidings now, here be but few, ſave that, as I underſtand, Ambaſſadors of Britany ſhall come to London to-morrow; and men ſay, that the Lord [3] Rivers and Scales ſhall haſtily come home, and men ſay, that there is many of the Soldiers that went to him into Britany been dead of the Flux, and other

* I paid her off, or treated her with unceremonious language.

fflyxe and other ipedemye and y^t^ the remenant ſholde come hom w^t^ the Lorde Skalys and ſom ſeye y^t^ thees Imbaſſators come ffor moor men and thys daye rennyth a talé y^t^ the Duke of [4] Bretayn' ſholde be ded I beleeff it nott.

I ſent yow worde off an Hawke, I herde nott from yow ſyns I do and ſhall doo y^t^ is poſſible in ſuche a neede.

Alſo I canne nott undreſtand that my Lord off Norff' ſhall come heer thys tyme, wherffor I am in a greet agonye howe is beſt ffor me to ſue to hym ffor rehavyng off my place y^t^ goode Lorde weet full lytell how moche harme he doothe me and how lytell goode or worſhyp it dothe hym. I praye yow ſende me yowr advyce. No moor to yow at thys tyme but God have yow in hys kepyng Wretyn at London y^e^ iiij daye off Novembre A^o^. E. iiij^ti^ xij°. I feer me y^t^ idelneſſe ledyth yowr reyne I praye yow rather remembre S^r^. Hughe Levernoy's tyll yowr Hauke come.

[5] John Paſton, K.

11 ½ by 14.

Paper Mark,
A Demy Bull.
Pl. x. N° 5.

[4] Francis II. the laſt Duke of Britany, was born in 1435, and died in 1488.

LET-

epidemy [*epidemical diſeaſes,*] that the remanent ſhould come home with the Lord Scales; and ſome ſay, that theſe Ambaſſadors come for more men; and this day runneth a tale, that the Duke of [4] Britany ſhould be dead, I believe it not.

I ſent you word of a Hawk, I heard not from you ſince, I do and ſhall do that is poſſible in ſuch a need.

Alſo I cannot underſtand that my Lord of Norfolk ſhall come here this time, wherefore I am in a great agony, how is beſt for me to ſue to him for rehaving of my place; that good Lord weet full little how much harm he doth me, and how little good or worſhip it doth him. I pray you ſend me your advice. No more to you at this time, but God have you in his keeping.

Written at London the 4th day of November in the 12th year of Edward IVth.

I fear me that Idleneſs leadeth your rein; I pray you rather remember Sir Hugh Lavernoy's till your Hawk come.

[5] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Wedneſday,
4th of November, 1472,
12 E. IV.

[5] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LET-

LETTER L.

A John Paſton Eſquyer ſoyt done.

BROTHER I comend me to yow, letyng yow weet, &c. *(The firſt part of this Letter treats of ſome money tranſactions of no conſequence, &c.)*

As for the delyu'ance off the Ryñge to Meſtreſſe Jane Rothon' I dowt nott but it ſhall bë doon in the beſt wyſe ſo yt ye ſhall geet me a thank moor than the Rynge and I ar worthe or deſerve.

And wheer ye goo to my Laydy off Norffolk and wyll be theer att the takyng off hyr Chambre I praye God ſpede yow and our Ladye hyr to hyr pleſur wt as eaſye labor to overkom' that ſhe is abowt as evyr had any Lady or Gentyllwoman, ſaff owr Lady heer ſelffe and ſoo I hope ſhe ſhall to hyr greet joye and all owres and I prey God it maye be lyke hyr in worſhip wytt gentylneſſe and every thynge excepte the verry verry thynge.

No moor to yow at thyme but I woll ſleepe an howr ye lenger tomorrow by cawſe I wrote ſo longe and late to nyght.

Wretyn

I ſhould have thought that this child was Anne, if it had not been for the Memorandum of "A°. x°." (10 E. IV.) on the back of a Letter from John Paſton to Sir John Paſton, Knight, and numbered in this Collection XXXIV. to which I refer the Reader

The

LETTER L.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, be this given.

BROTHER I commend me to you, letting you weet, &c. (*The firſt part of this Letter treats of ſome money tranſactions of no conſequence, &c.*)

As for the deliverance of the Ring to Miſtreſs Jane Rothon, I doubt not but it ſhall be done in the beſt wiſe, ſo that ye ſhall get me a thank more than the Ring and I are worth or deſerve.

And whereas ye go to my Lady of Norfolk, and will be there at the taking of her chamber, I pray God ſpeed you, and Our Lady her, to her pleaſure with as eaſy labour to overcome that ſhe is about, as ever had any Lady or Gentlewoman, ſave Our Lady herſelf; and ſo I hope ſhe ſhall to her great joy, and all ours; and I pray God it may be like her in worſhip, wit, gentleneſs, and every thing, except the ſex.

No more to you at this time, but I will ſleep an hour the longer to-morrow, becauſe I wrote ſo long and late to-night.

The Child here expected therefore, whether Boy or Girl, died ſoon after its birth; and whether Sir John's good wiſhes, as to the Sex of the Child, were ſucceſsful or not, muſt remain undetermined. Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 10.

Written

Wretyn betwyen y^e^ viij and y^e^ xj daye off Novembre A°. xij° E. iiij^ti^.

J. P. K.

12 by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
The Letter
P. and Quaterfoil.
Pl. xi. N° 13.

LETTER LJ.

To John Paſton' Eſquyer or to Meſtreſſe Margret Paſton hys Modre be thys Lett' delyu'yd.

WEELL belovyd Brother, *(Here follows an account of Letters ſent to him from Calais—of farme barly in Fledge and of olde ſtuffe at Norwich, &c.)*

As ffor tydyngs heer ther bee but fewe ſaff y^t^ y^e^ [1] Duke off Borgoyen and my Lady hys wyffe farethe well I was w^t^ them on thoryſdaye laſt paſt at [2] Gawnt, Peter Metteney ffarethe weell and Meſtreſſe Gretkyn bothe and Rabekyn recomend hyr to yow ſhe hathe ben verry ſeke but it hathe doon hyr goode ffor ſhe is ffayrer and ſlenderer than ſhe was and ſhe cowde make me no cheer but alwey my ſawſe was how ffaret

Theſe Extracts are given from the Original Letter chiefly to ſhow the eaſy and familiar ſtyle uſed by Sir John Paſton, (Pl. iv. N° 10.) in his humorous addreſs to his brother, when telling him of Rabekin's inquiries after him.

Maſt'

Written between the 8th and the 9th day of November, in the 12th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Between the 8th and 9th of November,
1472, 12 E. IV.

LETTER LI.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, or to Mrs. Margaret Paſton, his Mother, be this Letter delivered.

WELL BELOVED Brother, *(Here follows an account of Letters ſent to him from Calais—of farm Barley in Flegg hundred, and of old ſtuff at Norwich, &c.)*

As for tidings here, there be but few, ſave that the [1] Duke of Burgundy, and my Lady his wife fareth well; I was with them on Thurſday laſt paſt at [2] Ghent. Peter Metteney fareth well, and Mrs. Gretkin both, and Rabekyn recommend her to you, ſhe hath been very ſick, but it hath done her good, for ſhe is fairer and ſlenderer than ſhe was; and ſhe could make me no cheer, but alway my ſauce was, "how fareth Maſter

[1] Charles the Bold, and Margaret, Siſter to Edward IV.
[2] Gaunt or Ghent, a City of the Auſtrian Netherlands.

Maſt' John yowr brother wher w^t I was wrothe and ſpake a jalous worde or too dyſdeynyng y^t ſhe ſholde care ſo moche ffor yow when y^t I was preſent.

Sende me worde to Hoxons in wrygtyng what goode y^e [3] Byſshop ded ffor me at Framynh'm and howe my Lorde my Ladye and all the Cort or dyſpoſyd to me wards.

I here alſo ſeye y^t my Ladye and yowrs Dame Margret [4] Veer is ded God have hyr ſowle iff I weer not ſorye ffor herr I trowe ye have been.

No moor to yow at thys tyme but All myghty good have yow in kepyng. Wretyn at Caleys y^e iij daye of Februarye A^o. R R. E. iiij. xij^o.

J. P. K.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.

[3] The Biſhop, at Framlingham, ſee Letter XXXIV.

LETTER LIJ.

A ſon treſcher & bon Ame Freer John de Paſton eſq'er.

WEELL belovyd Brother, I recomand me to yow letyng yow wete y^t at the requeſt off Meſtreſſe Jane Haſſett and yow I have laboryd y^e knyghtys off y^e ſheer off Norff^e and the knyghtys off y^e ſhyre off Suff^e I underſtond ther had ben

John your Brother?" wherewith I was wrath, and ſpake a jealous word or two, diſdaining that ſhe ſhould care ſo much for you, when I was preſent.

Send me word to Hoxon's in writing, what good the [1] Biſhop did for me at Framlingham, and how my Lord, my Lady, and all the Court are diſpoſed to me wards.

I hear alſo ſay, that my Lady and yours, Dame Margaret [4] Vere is dead, God have her ſoul! if I were not ſorry for her, I trow ye have been.

No more to you at this time, but Almighty God have you in keeping.

Written at Calais, the 3d day of February, in the 12th year of the reign of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Calais, Wedneſday,
3d of February, 1472, 12 E. IV.

[4] Daughter and Heir of Sir William Stafford, and wife to Sir George Vere; their Son, John Vere, was afterwards Earl of Oxford.

LETTER LII.

To his dear and well beloved Brother John Paſton, Eſquire.

WELL BELOVED Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that at the requeſt of Mrs. Jane Haſſett and you, I have laboured both the Knights of the Shire of Norfolk, and the Knights of the Shire of Suffolk; I

made labor y^t ſuche a thing ſhulde have ben as ye wrotte to me off but now it is ſaff.

Raff Blaundrehaſſet wer a name to ſtyrte an hare I warrant ther ſhall come no ſuche name in owr bokys ner in owr houſe, it myght p' caſe ſtyrt xx^ti harys at onys, ware that j^d [1] perſe. I redde ther in the bille off Norff' off on John Tendall Eſq'er. but I ſuppoſe it be not ment by owr Tendall and iff it be he ſhall not reſt theer iff I maye helpe it.

As for tydyngs the werſt that I herde was that my Moodre wyll not doo ſo moche ffor me as ſhe put me in cõffort off.

Other tydyngs I herd ſey ffor ſerteyn y^t y^e Lady Fitzwat' is ded and y^t Maſt' Fytzwat' ſhall have CCCC mrke ayer mor' than he had I am not ſory therffor,

As ffor the worlde I woot nott what it menyth men ſeye heer as weell as [2] Hogan y^t we ſhall have adoo in haſt I know no lyklyhod but that ſuche a Rumor ther is.

Men ſey the Qwyen w^t the Prynce ſhall come owt off Walys and kepe thys Eſterne w^t the Kyng at Leycetr and ſom' ſeye nowther off them ſhall com ther.

It'm off beyond y^e See it is ſeyd y^t the Frenſe Kyngs hoſt hathe kyllyd the Erle off [3] Armenak and all hys myry mene ſom' ſeye undre appoyntment and ſom' ſeye they wer beſegyd and gotyn by pleyn aſſault.

The buſineſs referred to, in the beginning of this Letter, is not mentioned; what is ſaid of Blenerhaſſet, ſeems to be meant as a pun upon the name, as written *Blunder hare ſet*; or perhaps it may only refer to its being a ſounding name.

Ferthermoor

underſtand there had been made labour, that ſuch a thing ſhould have been as ye wrote to me of, but now it is ſafe.

Ralph Blaunderhaſſett were a name to ſtart an Hare, I warrant there ſhall come no ſuch name in our Books, nor in our houſe; it might per caſe ſtart twenty Hares at once. Beware that 1d. [1] purſe. I read there in the bill of Norfolk, of one John Tendall, Eſquire, but I ſuppoſe it be not meant by our Tendall; and if it be, he ſhall not reſt there, if I may help it.

As for tidings, the worſt that I heard was, that my Mother will not do ſo much for me as ſhe put me in comfort of.

Other tidings, I heard ſay for certain, that the Lady Fitzwalter is dead, and that Maſter Fitzwalter ſhall have 400 marks (266*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) a year more than he had: I am not ſorry therefore.

As for the world I wot not what it meaneth, men ſay here, as well as [2] Hogan, that we ſhall have ado [*a commotion*] in haſte; I know no likelihood, but that ſuch a Rumour there is. Men ſay, the Queen with the Prince ſhall come out of Wales, and keep this Eaſter with the King at Leiceſter; and ſome ſay, neither of them ſhall come there.

Item, of beyond the Sea, it is ſaid, that the French King's Hoſt hath killed the Earl of [3] Armagnac and all his merry men; ſome ſay, under appointment, and ſome ſay, they were beſieged, and gotten by plain aſſault.

[1] It ſeems to mean, Beware of that covetous man; or of that poor man, which I know not.

[2] Hogan's Prophecy is mentioned in Letter LVI.

[3] A Territory on the North-eaſt ſide of Gaſcony, in France.

Farthermore

Ferthermoor men ſeye that the Frenſhe Kynge is w^t^ hys oſt uppon the wat' off [4] Some a lx myle froo Caleys I leve them wheer I ffond them.

I made yowr anſwer to y^e^ ffrends off Meſtreſſe Jane Godnoſton accordyng to yowr Inſtrucions. As for me I am nott ſerteyn whether I ſhall to Caleys to Leyſetr or come home into Norff' but I ſhall haſtely ſend yow worde, &c.

Wretyn y^e^ ij daye of Aprill A°. E. iiij. xiij°.

10 by 5 ¼.

* Part of the Paper Mark remaining is the bottom of the Letter P. Pl. xi. N° 13.

[4] A River which runs through Picardy, in France.

Autograph. Pl. iv. N° 9.

LETTER LIII.

To John Paſton Eſqēr at Norwych be thys d'd.

WYRSHYPFULL and well belovyd Brother, I comand me to yow letyng yow weet y^t^ the Worlde ſemyth qweyſye heer ffor the moſt part that be abowt the Kyng have ſende hyddr ffor ther harneys and it ſeyd ffor ſerteyn that y^e^ Duke off Clarance makyth hym bygge in that he kan ſchewyng as he wolde but dele w^t^ the Duke of Glowceſt' but the Kyng ententyth

Farthermore men ſay, that the French King is with his Hoſt upon the water of [4] Somme a 60 miles from Calais; I leave them where I found them.

I made your anſwer to the friends of Mrs. Jane Godnoſton according to your Inſtructions; as for me, I am not certain whether I ſhall to Calais, to Leiceſter, or come home into Norfolk, but I ſhall haſtily ſend you word, &c.

Written the 2d day of April, the 13th of Edward IV.

Friday,
2d of April, 1473,
13 E. IV.

LETTER LIII.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, at Norwich, be this delivered.

WORSHIPFUL and well beloved Brother, I commend me to you, letting you weet, that the World ſeemeth queaſy [*unſettled*] here; for the moſt part that be about the King have ſent hither for their Harneſs, and it (*is*) ſaid for certain, that the Duke of Clarence maketh him big in that he can, ſhewing as he would but [*only*] deal with the Duke of Glouceſter; but the

tentyth in eſchyewying all Inconvenyents to be as bygge as they bothe and to be a ſtyffeler atweyn them, and ſom men thynke y^t^ undre thys ther ſholde be ſom other thynge entendyd and ſom treaſon conſpyred ſo what ſhall falle can I nott ſeye.

It'm it is ſeyde y^t^ yiſt'daye ij Paſſagers off Dovr wer takyn I ffer y^t^ iff Juddy had noon haſty paſſage ſo y^t^ iff he paſſyd nott on Sondaye or mondaye y^t^ he is taken and ſom geer off myn y^t^ I wolde not for xx^li^.

I hope and p'poſe to goo to Caleys warde on ſondaye or mondaye or nyghe bye ffor I am nott acompanyed to do any ſervyſe heer wherffor it wer bett' ffor me to be owt off ſyght.

(*Here follow ſome money tranſactions relative to a Doctor Pykenham, his Mother and others.*)

It'm Sprynge y^t^ wayten on my ^r^ ffadre when he was in Jowel hous whom my ffadre at hys dyeng beſett xl^s^ he cryethe evyr on me ffor it and in weye off Almeſs and he wolde be eaſyd thow it wer but xx$_s$ or x^s^ wherffor he hathe wretyn to my Modr and moſt have an anſwer ageyn I wolde y^t^ my Moodr ſende hym as thoghe ſhe lende hym ſom whatt and he woll be pleaſyd and ellys he can ſeye as ſhrewdely as any man in Ingelonde.

It'm

The firſt part of this curious Letter informs us of the unſettled ſtate of the nation; and that the Duke of Clarence, pretending only to be getting his party together to oppoſe the Duke of Glouceſter, was ſuppoſed to be meditating ſome Treaſon againſt the State.

Theſe royal Brothers had been for ſome time at variance, and moſt probably their Diſputes

the King intendeth, in eſchewing all Inconvenience, to be as big as they both, and to be a Stiffler [*Stickler*] atween them; and ſome men think, that under this, there ſhould be ſome other thing intended, and ſome Treaſon conſpired; ſo what ſhall fall, can I not ſay.

Item, it is ſaid that yeſterday two Paſſagers [*Paſſage Boats*] of Dover were taken; I fear that if Juddy had no haſty paſſage, ſo that if he paſſed not on Sunday or Monday, that he is taken, and ſome Gear [*Goods*] of mine, that I would not for 20l.

I hope and purpoſe to go to Calais ward on Sunday or Monday or nigh by, for I came not accompanied to do any ſervice here; wherefore it were better for me to be out of ſight.

(*Here follow ſome money tranſactions relative to a Doctor Pykenham, his Mother, and others.*)

Item, Spring, that waited on my [1] father when he was in Gaol houſe, whom my father, at his dying beſet [*bequeathed*] 40s. he cryeth ever on me for it, and in way of Alms and he would be eaſed, though it were but xxs. or xs. wherefore he hath written to my Mother, and muſt have an anſwer again; I would that my Mother ſend him, as though ſhe lend him ſomewhat, and he will be pleaſed, and [*or*] elſe he can ſay as ſhrewdly as any man in England.

Diſputes were heightened at this time, by the late marriage of the latter with Anne, the Widow of Prince Edward, Henry VI's Son; Daughter and Coheir of the Earl of Warwick; and Siſter to the Ducheſs of Clarence, whoſe poſſeſſions the Duke was unwilling to divide with her Siſter, now his Brother's Wife.

[1] John Paſton, Eſquire, was impriſoned by Edward IV. in 1466.

It'm the Kynge hathe ſent ffor hys [2] Great Seall, ſom ſeye we ſhall have a newe [3] Chauncelor but ſom thynke y[t] the Kynge dothe as he dyde at the laſt ffeldys he wyll have the Seall w[t] hym, but thys daye Doctor [4] Morton Maſt' off y[e] Rollys rydethe to y[e] Kynge and berythe the Seaſe w[t] hym.

It'm I had neu' mor nede off mony than now wherffor Faſtolff's v mrks and the mony off Maſt' John Smythe wolde make me holl, &c.

Wretyn on Seynt Lenards daye A°. R R. E. iiij[ti] xiij°.

It'm. Sende me my Veſtment acordyng to y[e] Lett' I ſent yow by Symond Dam in all haſt.*

[5] J. P. K.

11 ¾ by 8 ¾.

[2] This is a proof that the King apprehended ſome conſpiracy was going forwards.
[3] Robert Stillington, Biſhop of Bath and Wells, was the then Chancellor.
[4] Dr. Morton was a man of great learning and ſtrict loyalty; he was elected Biſhop of

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LETTER LVI.

To John Paſton Eſqer in Norff.

WYRSSHYPFULL and ryght hertyly belowyd brother, I recomande me on to yow letyng yow wete y[t] on wednyſdaye laſt paſt I wrote yow a lett' wheroff John Carbalde had the beryng promyttyng me y[t] ye ſhold have it at Norwyche thys

Item, the King hath ſent for his [2] Great Seal; ſome ſay, we ſhall have a new [3] Chancellor, but ſome think, that the King doth as he did at the laſt Fields, he will have the Seal with him, but this day Doctor [4] Morton, Maſter of the Rolls, rideth to the King, and beareth the Seaſe [*Seals*] with him.

Item, I had never more need of money than now, wherefore Faſtolf's 5 marks, (*3l. 6s. 8d.*) and the money of Maſter John Smythe would make me whole, &c.

Written on St. Leonard's day, in the 13th year of the reign of Edward IVth.

Item, ſend me my veſtment, according to the Letter I ſent you by Symond Dam, in all haſte.

[5] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Thurſday,
15th of April, 1473,
13 E. IV.

of Ely, in 1478; and in the ſame year appointed Lord Chancellor;—in 1484, he was advanced to the Archiepiſcopal See of Canterbury, and died in 1500.

[5] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 10.

LETTER LIV.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, in Norfolk.

WORSHIPFUL and right heartily beloved Brother, I recommend me unto you, letting you weet, that on Wedneſday laſt paſt I wrote you a Letter, whereof John Carbalde had the bearing, promitting [*promiſing*] me that ye ſhould

thys daye or ellys to morowe in the mornyng, wherin I praye yowe to take a labor accordyng afftr the tenur off the ſame and y^t I maye have an anſwer at London to Hoxon iff any maſſenger come as ene I maye doo ffor yow.

As ffor tydyngs ther was a truſe taken at Bruſſellys about the xxvj daye off Marche laſt paſt be twyn the Duke off Borgoyn and ye ffrenſe Kyngs Imbaſſators and Maſt' Will'm At Clyff ffor the Kyng heer whyche is a Peſe be londe and wat' tyll the [1] ffyrſt daye off Apryll nowe next comyng betweyn Fraunce and Ingelond and alſo y^e Dukys londes. God.holde it ffor ever and grace be.

It'm the Erle of [2] Oxenfford was on ſat'daye at [3] Depe and is p'poſyd into Skotlond w^t a xij Schyppys, I myſtruſt that werke.

It'm ther be in London many fflyeng talys ſeying that y^r ſhold be a [4] werke and yit they wot not howe.

It'm my Lorde [5] Chamb'leyn ſendyth now at thys tyme to Caleys y^e yonge Lorde [6] Sowche and S^r. Thomas Hongreffords [7] Dowtre and heyr and ſome ſeye y^e yonge Lady Haryngton thes be iij grett Jowelles, Caleys is a mery town they ſhall dwell ther I wot not whylghe.

The hiſtoric Facts mentioned in this Letter contradict the Dates of them as given by our Hiſtorians, and place in the year 1473, thoſe which they have given as happening in the year preceding.

[1] From 26th of March, 1473, to 1ſt of April, 1474.

[2] Our Hiſtorians aſſert that the Earl of Oxford was taken in St. Michael's Mount, in Cornwall, in 1472, and thence conveyed to the Caſtle of Hammes, near Calais, where he was impriſoned during twelve years; this could not be, as he was now at Dieppe, concerting an expedition into Scotland.

No

have it at Norwich this day, or elſe to-morrow in the morning; wherein I pray you to take a labour according after the tenure of the ſame, and that I may have an anſwer at London to Hoxon, if any meſſenger come, as ene I may do for you.

As for tidings, there was a Truce taken at Bruſſels at the 26th day of March laſt paſt, between the Duke of Burgundy and the French King's Ambaſſadors, and Mr. William at Clyff for the King here; which is a Peace by land and water till the [1] firſt day of April now next coming, between France and England, and alſo the Duke's land; God hold it for ever, and [*if*] Grace be!

Item, the Earl of [2] Oxford was on Saturday at [3] Dieppe, and is purpoſed into Scotland with a 12 Ships; I miſtruſt that work.

Item, there be in London many flying Tales, ſaying, that there ſhould be a [4] work and yet they wot not how.

Item, my Lord [5] Chamberlain ſendeth, now at this time to Calais, the young Lord [6] Zouch and Sir Thomas Hungerford's [7] Daughter and Heir, and ſome ſay, the young Lady Harrington, theſe be three great Jewels; Calais is a merry town, they ſhall dwell there I wot not whylghe [*how long*].

[3] A Port Town in France, oppoſite to Rye, in Suſſex.

[4] This may refer to ſome commotions expected to be excited by the Friends of the Houſe of Lancaſter, perhaps to aſſiſt the Earl of Oxford, or it may relate to the differences between the Dukes of Clarence and Glouceſter, &c.

[5] William, Lord Haſtings.

[6] John, Lord Zouch of Harringworth; he was attainted in the firſt year of Henry VII.

[7] Mary, Daughter and Heir of Sir Thomas Hungerford; ſhe afterwards married Edward, Son and Heir to William, Lord Haſtyngs, who in her right became Lord Hungerford, her Uncle's attainder being reverſed.

No

No mor but I have ben and ame troblyd w^t^ myn ovẽr large and curteys delyng w^t^ my ſervants and now w^t^ ther onkynd neſſe Plattyng yowr men wolde thys daye byd me ffar well to to morow at Dou' notw^t^ſtandyng Thryſton yowr other m[illegible]is ffrom me and John Myryell and W. Woode whyche promyſed yow and Dawbeney God have hys ſowle, at Caſtre y^t^ iff ye wolde take hym in to be ageyn w^t^ me y^t^ then he wold neu' goo ffro me and ther uppon I have kepyd hym thys iij yer to pleye Seynt [8] Jorge and Robyn Hod and the Shryff off Notyngh'm and now when I wolde have good horſe he is goon into Bernyſdale and I w^t^owt a keeper.

Wretyn at Cant'burye, to Caleys warde on teweſday and happe be, uppon [9] Good Frydaye y^e^ xvj daye off Apryll A°. E. iiij^ti^. xiij°.

Yowr,

[10] J. P. li.

It'm the moſt parte off the Sowdyors y^t^ went ou' w^t^ S^r^. Rob^t^ Green have leeff and be comyn hom the hyghe weye ffull my Cariage was behynd me ij hours longer yan I lokyd afftr but I [11] wyſſe I wende y^t^ I myght have etyn my parte on

[8] Meaning, I preſume, either that he had kindly kept him when he did not want him; and now that he did want him, that he had left him; or that he had kept him to be an Actor in ſuch Interludes.

[9] This is the firſt Letter ſo fully dated, by which the exact time of King Edward's reign can be preciſely aſcertained.

By the Tables to find Eaſter, it appears that in 1473, the Prime being 11, and the Dominical Letter C, Eaſter Sunday was on the 18th of April.

No more, but I have been, and am troubled with mine over large and courteous dealing with my ſervants, and now with their unkindneſs; Platting your man would this day bid me farewell to to-morrow at Dover, notwithſtanding Thryſton your other man is from me, and John Myryel, and W. Woode which promiſed you and Dawbeney, God have his Soul, at Caiſter, that if ye would take him in to be again with me, that then he would never go from me; and thereupon I have kept him this three years to play [8] Saint George and Robin Hood, and the Sheriff of Nottingham, and now when I would have good horſe, he is gone into Bernyſdale and I without a Keeper.

Written at Canterbury, to Calais ward on Tueſday and [*if*] hap be, upon [9] Good Friday the 16th day of April, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

Your,

[10] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Item, the moſt part of the Soldiers that went over with Sir Robert Green have leave, and be coming home the High-way full; my Carriage was behind me two hours longer than I looked after, but [11] I wis I wend that I might have eaten my

Edward the IVth's Reign began the 4th of March.

The 16th of April 1473, was therefore the 13th of Edward IV. and conſequently he began his reign on the 4th of March, 1460.

N. B. The Date of the New Year commenced on the 25th of March.

[10] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 10.

[11] The ſenſe of this latter part is not clear; perhaps he meant to ſay that he was ſo ſure that his finery was loſt, that he might have ventured to promiſe to eat his part of it on Good Friday without breaking his faſt.

part

Good ffrydaye all my garees and pryde had ben goon, but all was ſaffe. I pray yow iff W. Mylſent go ffroo yow y^t he myght come to me to Caleys, I will have hym.

11 ½ by 8.

Paper Mark,
A Vine Branch, and
Bunch of Grapes.
Pl. x. N° 2.

LETTER LII.

To John Paſton Eſquyer in Norwich.

RYGHT werſhypfull brother I recomand me to yow, &c. (*Then follow ſome orders concerning Servants, Debts, Securities, &c.*)

As for tydyngs the Erle of [1] Wylſhyr and the Lord [2] Sudele be ded and it was ſeyd y^t S^r. W. Stanle was deed but now it is ſeyd naye, &c.

It'm as ffor your goyng to Seyn James I [3] beleve it but atwyen ij, &c.

I herd ſeye that a man was thys daye examyned and he confeſſed y^t he knewe greet treſor was ſende to y^e Erle off

This ſhews us the unſettled ſtate of the nation, and the apprehenſions of the King concerning the coming of the Earl of Oxford.—The man's confeſſion ſeems to be founded on good authority, as the Earl arrived in England ſoon after.

Oxenfford

part on Good Friday all my garees [*finery*] and pride had been gone, but all was ſafe.

I pray you if W. Mylſent go from you, that he might come to me to Calais, I will have him.

Canterbury,
Good Friday, 16th of April,
1473, 13 E. IV.

LETTER LV.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, in Norwich.

RIGHT worſhipful Brother, I recommend me to you, &c. (*Then follow ſome orders concerning Servants, Debts, Securities, &c.*)

As for tidings, the Earl of [1] Wiltſhire and the Lord [2] Sudley be dead, and it was ſaid, that Sir W. Stanley was dead, but now it is ſaid nay, &c.

Item, as for your going to Saint James's I [3] believe it but atween two, &c.

I heard ſay, that a man was this day examined, and he confeſſed, that he knew great treaſure was ſent to the Earl of

[1] John Stafford was created Earl of Wiltſhire in 1470. He was brother to Henry, Duke of Buckingham.

[2] . . . . . Butler, Lord Sudley.

[3] This ſeems to ſignify, *I do not believe it.*

Oxenfford wheroff a m^le li ſholde be conveyd by a [4] Monke off Weſtm' and ſom' ſeye by a Monke off Chartrehows.

It'm that the ſame man ſchulde acuſe C Gentylmen in Norff' and Suff' y^t have agreyd to aſſyſt the ſeyd Erle at hys comynge thyder whyche as itt is ſeyd ſholde be w^tin viij dayes afftr [5] Seynt Donſton iff wynde and weddyr ſerffe hym fflyeng tales. No mor at thys tyme but God have yow in kepyng. Wretyn at London on Seynt Donſtones daye xviij daye of Maye A°. E. iiij^ti. xiij°.

[6] John Paſton, K.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
Bull's Head and Star.
Pl. x. N° 1.

[4] We ſee here that the Clergy favoured the Earl of Oxford, though King Edward always endeavoured to keep them on his ſide.

LETTER LVI.

To John Paſton Eſqer be thys delyveryd.

RYGHT wyrſhypfull brother I comand me to yow letyng yow weet y^t thys daye I was in very p'poſe to Caleys ward all redy to have goon to y^e Barge, ſaff I teryed ffor a yonge man y^t I thoght to have had w^t me thyddr, on

Oxford, whereof a 1000*l.* ſhould be conveyed by a [4] Monk of Weſtminſter, and ſome ſay, by a Monk of Charterhouſe.

Item, that the ſame man ſhould accuſe an hundred Gentlemen in Norfolk and Suffolk, that have agreed to aſſiſt the ſaid Earl at his coming thither, which, as it is ſaid, ſhould be within eight days after [5] St. Dunſtan, if wind and weather ſerve him; flying tales.

No more at this time, but God have you in keeping. Written at London on Saint Dunſtan's day, the 18th day of May, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

[6] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
St. Dunſtan's day,
Tueſday, 18th of May, 1473.
13 E. IV.

[5] In the next Letter he is ſaid to have landed in Eſſex on the 28th of May.
[6] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LETTER LVI.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, be this delivered.

RIGHT worſhipful Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that this day I was in very purpoſe to Calais ward, all ready to have gone to the Barge; ſave I tarried for a young man, that I thought to have had with me

that was w^t^ Rows whyche is in the cowntre, and becauſe I cowde not geet hym and y^t^ I have no mor heer w^t^ me butt Pampyng Edward and Jak therffor Pampyng remembryd me that at Caleys he tolde me y^t^ he p'poſed to be w^t^ the Ducheſſe off Norff' my Lady and yowrs and Edward is ſyke and ſemythe nott abydyng he wolde ſee what ſhold falle off thys worlde, and ſo I am as he that ſeythe com' hyddr John my man, and as happe was yiſt'day Juddy went affor to Caleysward wherffor I am nowe ille p'veyd, whyche ffor owte y^t^ I knowe yit is lyke to kepe me heer thys [1] Wytſontyd wherffor iff ye knowe any lykly men and ffayr condycōned and good Archers ſende them to me thowe it be iiij and I wyll have them and they ſhall have iiij mrks by yer and my Levere.

He maye com to me hyddr to the Gott or yit to Caleys w^t^ a * riall iff he be wyſe, whyche iff nede bee I wolde y^t^ Berker toke hym to come uppe w^t^ iff it be ſuche on' as ye tryſt.

It'm I ſuppoſe bothe Pytte and Kothye Plattyng ſhall goo ffrom me in haſt, I wyll neu' cheryſshe knaves ſoo as I have don ffor ther ſakys.

It'm I praye yow ſende me a newe Veſtment off whyght Damaſke ffor a Dekyn', whyche is among myn other geer at Norwiche, ffor he ſhall ther too as ye woot off I wyll make an armyng Doblett off it thow I ſholde an other tyme gyff

The former part of this Letter is of little conſequence, except to ſhew us the Attendants neceſſary for a Perſon of Sir John Paſton's (Pl. IV. N° 9.) rank; the latter hints to us the unſettled ſtate of the government; and that the King and the Duke of Clarence were not on amicable terms.

a longe

thither, one that was with Rows which is in the country; and becauſe I could not get him, and that I have no more here with me but Pampyng, Edward, and Jack, therefore Pampyng remembered me, that at Calais he told me, that he purpoſed to be with the Ducheſs of Norfolk, my Lady and yours; and Edward is ſick, and ſeemeth not abiding, he would ſee what ſhall fall of this world, and ſo I am as he that ſaith; "come "hither, John, my man;" And as hap was yeſterday Juddy went afore to Calais ward, wherefore I am now ill purveyed; which for aught that I know yet, is like to keep me here this [1] Whitſuntide, wherefore if ye know any likely men, and fair conditioned, and good Archers, ſend them to me, though it be four, and I will have them, and they ſhall have four Marks (*2l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) by the year, and my Livery.

He may come to me hither to the Goat, or yet [*elſe*] to Calais with a * rial if he be wiſe, which if need be, I would that Barker took [*gave*] him to come up with, if it be ſuch one as ye truſt.

Item, I ſuppoſe both Pytte, and Kothye Plattyng ſhall go from me in haſte: I will never cheriſh Knaves ſo as I have done, for their ſakes.

Item, I pray you ſend me a new Veſtment of white Damaſk for a Deacon, which is amongſt mine other Geer at Norwich, for he ſhall thereto as ye wot of; I will make an arming

[1] Whitſunday, 6th of June, 1473.

* A Rial, a gold coin of 10*s.* value.

Doublet

a longe Gown off Velvett ffor another veſtment and ſend it in all haſt to Hoxon to ſend me.

I hopyd to have been verry mery at Caleys thys Whytſon-tyde and am weell apparayled and apoyntyd ſaff that thes ffolks ffayle me ſoo and I have mat' ther to make off Rygh̄t excellent. Som man wolde have haſtyd hym to Caleys thowe he had hadd no bett' erand and ſom men thynke it wyſdom and profyght to be theer now weell owt off the weye.

It'm as ffor the [2] Byſshop and I we bee nerr^{r} to a poynt than we weer, ſo that my part is nowe all the londes in Flegge holly, the man' off Heyleſdon, Tolthorpe, and Teñts in Norwyche and Erlh'm excepte Fayrechylds, but ffarweell Drayton the Devyll doytt them.

It'm large and fferr comynycācon hathe ben bytwyen S^{r}. John Fogge Ric Haulte ffor ther Suſt' and me byffor Doctor Wyntborne and ellys wher ſo that I am in bett' hope than I was by Seynt [3] Lawrens that I ſhall have a delyu'aunce.

It'm as ffor tydyngs heer I trow ye have herde yowr part howe y^{t} y^{e} Erle off Oxenfford landyd by Seynt Oſyes in Eſſexe y^{e} xxviij daye off Maye ſaff he teryed nott longe ffor iff he had the Erle of [4] Eſſexe rod to hym wardys and the Lords Denh'm and Duraſſe and other mor whyche by lyklyod ſholde have dyſtruſſyd hym but yit hys comyng ſavyd Hogan hys hed and hys Profeſye is the mor belevyd ffor he ſeyde that thys troble ſholde begyn in Maye and y^{t} the Kynge ſholde North-

[2] James Goldwell, Biſhop of Norwich, 1472.

[3] 10th of Auguſt.

wards

Doublet of it, though I ſhould another time give a long Gown of velvet for another veſtment; and ſend it in all haſte to Hoxon to ſend me.

I hoped to have been very merry at Calais this Whitſuntide, and am well apparelled and appointed, ſave that theſe folks fail me ſo, and I have matter there to make of right excellent. Some man would have haſted him to Calais, though he had had no better errand, and ſome men think it wiſdom and profit to be there now well out of the way.

Item, as for the [2] Biſhop and I, we be nearer to a point than we were, ſo that my part is now all the Lands in Flegg wholly, the Manor of Helleſdon, Tolthorpe, and Tenements in Norwich and Earlham, except Fairchild's; but farewell Drayton, the Devil do it them [*do them good of it*].

Item, large and fair communication hath been between Sir John Fagge and Richard Haulte for their Siſter and me, before Doctor Wyntborne and elſewhere, ſo that I am in better hope than I was by St. [3] Lawrence that I ſhall have a deliverance.

Item, as for tidings here, I trow ye have heard your part, how that the Earl of Oxford landed by St. Oſyth's in Eſſex, the 28th day of May, ſave he tarried not long; for if he had, the Earl of [4] Eſſex rode to him wards, and the Lords Denham and Duras, (*Galliard de Durefort*), and other more, which by likelihood ſhould have diſtreſſed him; but yet his coming ſaved Hogan his head; and his Prophecy is the more believed; for he ſaid, that this trouble ſhould begin in May, and that the

[4] Henry Bourchier, Earl of Eſſex, Lord Treaſurer.

King;

wards and that y^e^ Scotts ſholde make us werke and hym batayle.

Men loke afftr they wot not what but men by harneys ffaſt the Kyngs menyall men and y^e^ Duke off Clarauncs ar many in thys town y^e^ Lord [5] Ryu'ſe com to daye mē ſeye to p'veye in lyke wyſe.

It'm how y^t^ y^e^ Cownteſſe off [6]. Warwyk is now owt off Beweley Seyntwarye and [7] S^r^. James Tyrell conveyth hyr Northwarde men ſeye by the Kynges aſſent wherto ſom men ſeye y^t^ the Duke off Clarance is not agreyd.

It'm men ſeye y^t^ the Erle off Oxenfford is abowt the Ilde off Tenett hoveryng ſom ſeye w^t^ grett companye and ſom ſeye w^t^ ffewe.

No mor but God kepe yow. Wretyn at London the iij daye off June A^o^. E. iiij^ti^ xiij^o^.

John Paſton, K.

11 ¾ by 8 ¾.

Paper Mark,
The Letter P, and Quaterfoil.
Pl. xi. N° 15.

[5] Anthony Wideville, Earl Rivers, beheaded at Pontefract, 1483.

[6] Anne, widow of Richard Neville, the great Earl of Warwick, ſiſter and heir to Henry Beauchamp, Duke of Warwick, and mother of Iſabel, the wife of George, Duke of Clarence.

King ſhould Northwards, and that the Scots ſhould make us work, and him battle.

Men look after they wot not what, but men buy Harneſs faſt; the King's menial men, and the Duke of Clarence's, are many in this town; the Lord [5] Rivers came to day, men ſay, to purvey in like wiſe.

Item, how that the Counteſs of [6] Warwick is now out of Beverley Sanctuary, and [7] Sir James Tyrell conveyeth her Northwards, men ſay, by the King's aſſent, whereto ſome men ſay, that the Duke of Clarence is not agreed.

Item, men ſay, that the Earl of Oxford is about the Iſle of Thanet, hovering, ſome ſay, with great company, and ſome ſay, with few.

No more but God keep you. Written at London the 3d day of June, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Thurſday, 3d of June,
1473, 13 E. IV.

[7] If this be the Perſon, who was afterwards thought to be concerned in the murder of Edward V. and his Brother, the Duke of York, he muſt have been a Knight much longer than thoſe who have written on this particular part of our Hiſtory ſuppoſed him to have been.

LETTER LVII.

A Edmond Paſton Eſquyer a Caleys ſoyt donne.

BROTHER Edmond I grete yow weell letyng yow weete y abowt thys daye vij nyght I ſende yow a Letter by Nycholas Bardeſlee a ſowdyer whyche is wont woute to be at * borde^{r} Perauntys and alſo an ‡ hoſeclothe off blak ffor yow. I wende y^{t} ye ſholde have hadde itt w^{t}in ij dayes but I am afferde y^{t} he deſeyved me.

It'm I lete yow weet y^{t} Plattyng is comen hyddr and he ſeythe y^{t} ye gaffe hym leve to ffetche hys geer and Pittys and that is hys erande hyddr and noon other, ner he thowt neu' to goo ffro me ner he wyll nott goo ffro me as he ſeythe, wherffor I praye yow ſende me worde off hys condycōns and whyghe ye thynke y^{t} he ſholde neu' do me worſhypp.

He ſeythe alſo y^{t} he and Pytte weer at y^{e} takyng off the Eſt'lyngs and that he was in the Pakker and Pytte in the Cryſtoffre. I praye yow ſende me worde howe bothe he and Pitte quytte them by the report off ſom' indyfferent trewe man y^{t} was ther iff they quytte them weell I wolde love them

Though this Letter from Sir John Paſton (Pl. IV. N° 9.) contains nothing very material, it informs us of an Engagement at Sea between ſome Ships of this Country, and thoſe of the Eaſterlings or Inhabitants of the Eaſtern part of Germany.

It likewiſe acquaints us with ſome private Anecdotes of Sir John Paſton as a man of gallantry.

LETTER LVII.

To Edmund Paſton, Eſquire, at Calais, be this delivered.

BROTHER Edmund, I greet you well, letting you weet, that about this day ſev'night I ſent you a Letter, by Nicholas Bardeſley a Soldier, which is wont to be at * border [*query, brother*] Perauntys; and alſo an [1] Hoſecloth of black for you; I wend [*underſtood*] that ye ſhould have had it within two days, but I am afraid that he deceived me.

Item, I let you weet that Plattyng is coming hither, and he ſaith, that ye gave him leave to fetch his Geer and Pytt's; and that is his errand hither and none other, nor he thought never to go from me, nor he will not go from me, as he ſaith; wherefore I pray you ſend me word of his conditions, and why ye think that he ſhould never do me worſhip.

He ſaith alſo, that he and Pytt were at the taking of the Eſterlings, and that he was in the Packer, and Pytt in the Chriſtopher; I pray you ſend me word how both he and Pytt quit them, by the report of ſome indifferent true man that was there; if they quit [*acquitted*] them well, I would love them the

[1] Cloth for hoſen.

* May not this ſentence be thus read? is wont to be at border paravant this, i. e. is accuſtomed to reach the border, march or edge of Calais much ſooner,—before this,—before ſo much time was elapſed.

the bett', wherffor the next daye afftr the ſyte of thys Lett' I praye yow wryght ageyn and ſende it by the next paſſage.

It'm I ſende a lytell praty boxe herwith whyche I wolde y^t^ Juddy ſholde delyu' to y^e^ woman y^t^ he wetyth off and praye hyr to take it to y^e^ man y^t^ ſhe wetyth off, y^t^ is to ſeye, as moche as ye knowe all well i now but ye maye nott make yow wyſe in no wyſe.

It'm I praye yow ſende me worde as ye wer wont to do off heer wellffar and whether I weer owt and other inne or nott and whether ſhe ſhall fforſake Caleys as ſone as ye ſende me worde off or nott.

By God I wolde be w^t^ yow as ffayne as yowr ſelff and ſhall be in haſt w^t^ Godds grace.

It'm as ffor my brother John I hope w^t^in thys monyth to ſee hym in Caleys ffor by lyklyhod to morowe or ellys the next daye he takyth ſhyppe at Yarmothe and goothe to Seynt James warde[a] and he hathe wretyn to me y^t^ he wyll come homwarde by Caleys.

It'm I ſuppoſe y^t^ James Song' ſhall com' w^t^ me to Caleys y^e^ rather ffor yowr ſake.

It'm Meſtreſſe Elyſabett ffareth well, but as yit Song' knoweth nott ſo p'ffytly all y^t^ ye wolde weet y^t^ he woll nott wryght to yow off thees ij dayes tyll he knowe moor, but iff ſhe hadde ben bolde and durſt have abydyn ſtyll at hyr Gate and ſpoken w^t^ me ſo God helpe me ſhe had hadd thys ſame y^t^ I ſende

[a] On a Pilgrimage, I ſuppoſe, to Saint James of Compoſtella, in the province of Gallicia, in Spain.

nowe

better; wherefore the next day after the ſight of this letter, I pray you write again, and ſend it by the next paſſage.

Item, I ſend a little pretty Box herewith, which I would that Juddy ſhould deliver to the woman that he weeteth of, and pray her to take it to the man that ſhe weeteth of; that is to ſay, as much as ye know all well enough, but ye may not make you wiſe in no wiſe. [*You muſt by no means ſeem to know any thing of the buſineſs in hand.*]

Item, I pray you ſend me word as ye were wont to do of her welfare; and whether I were out and other in or not; and whether ſhe ſhall forſake Calais as ſoon as ye ſent me word of, or not.

By God I would be with you as fain as yourſelf, and ſhall be in haſte with God's grace.

Item, as for my brother John, I hope within this month to ſee him in Calais; for by likelihood to-morrow, or elſe the next day, he taketh ſhip at Yarmouth, and goeth to Saint [2] James ward; and he hath written to me that he will come homeward by Calais.

Item, I ſuppoſe that James Songer ſhall come with me to Calais, the rather for your ſake.

Item, Miſtreſs Elizabeth fareth well, but as yet Songer knoweth not ſo perfectly all that ye would weet, that he will not write to you of theſe two days, till he know more; but if ſhe had been bold, and durſt have abiden ſtill at her gate, and ſpoken with me, ſo God help me, ſhe had had this ſame

(*box*)

nowe wher ye woot off whyche ye ſhall ſee woryn heer afftr itt is a praty ryban w^t praty [3] Agletts and goodlye.

Make yow not wyſe to Juddy nowther not y^t ye wolde weet any thynge ffor I maye ſey to yowe at hys comyng ovr he browt goodly geer reaſonablye.

It'm as ffor my [4] byll y^t is gylt I wolde it weer taken head too ther is on' in the town y^t can glaſer weell i nowe as I herde ſeye. Alſo ther is on comythe eu'y Markett daye ffro Seynt Omerys to Caleys and he bryngethe Dagers and ffetchyth alſo he may have it w^t hym and brynge it ageyn the next markett daye ffor xij^d. or xvj^d. at y^e moſt and ellys late it be weel oylyd and kepte tyll I come No mor', wretyn at London y^e v daye of Jull. A°. E. iiij^ti xiij°.

12 by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
The Letter P, and a Quaterfoil.
Pl. xi. N° 13.

[3] Pendent ornaments of metal, like Tags or Points, &c.

(box) that I ſend now, where ye wot of, which ye ſhall ſee worn hereafter, it is a pretty ribbon with pretty [3] Aglets and goodly.

Make you not wiſe to Juddy neither not that ye would weet any thing, for I may ſay to you, at his coming over he brought goodly Geer reaſonably.

Item, as for my [4] Bill that is gilt, I would it were taken heed to; there is one in the town, that can glaze [*poliſh*] well enough, as I heard ſay; alſo there is one cometh every market day from St. Omer's to Calais, and he bringeth Daggers and fetcheth alſo, he may have it with him, and bring it again the next market day for 12*d.* or 16*d.* at the moſt; and [*or*] elſe let it be well oiled and kept till I come.

No more. Written at London the 5th day of July, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Monday, 5th of July,
1473, 13 E. IV.

[4] A warlike Inſtrument of Offence.

LET-

LETTER LVIII.

To my Right hertily beloved frends and felaws S^r. John of Middelton and S^r. John Paſton Knights.

AFTER herty Recōmendacōn, I thank you of the gode attendance that ye yeve unto the Kings counſail at Calais and the gode and effectuelle devoires that ye putte you into aſſiſte my Depute S^r. John Scot in alle ſuche things as mowe conc'ne the ſaufgarde of my charge there. Leting you wite that if ther be any thing that I can and may do for you, I ſhal w^t right gode wil performe it to my power.

And I preye you to Recōmaunde me to my Lady [1] Howard, my Lady [2] Bourgchier, and all othr' Ladies and Gentilwomen of the ſaide towne. And in likewiſe to the Mayr' Lieuten' and felaſhip of the ſtaple, my felawes the ſouldeōs, and all othr' ſuche as ye ſhal ſeme gode. And oure lord ſende you yo^r. deſirs. Writen at Notyngham the xvj day of Septembr'.

S^r.

This and the Letter N° V. Appendix, are perhaps the only Letters extant of this Nobleman, who, though he diſliked King Edward's Queen, was a true and loyal Subject to the King; and continued faithful to his young Prince Edward V. for which he loſt his Head in 1483. Pl. IV. N° 7.

If we may judge from his expreſſions in theſe Letters, he was a polite Gentleman, and a kind Maſter.

His

LETTER LVIII.

To my right heartily beloved friends and fellows, Sir John of Middelton, and Sir John Paſton, Knights.

AFTER hearty Recommendation, I thank you of the good attendance that ye gave unto the King's Counſel at Calais; and the good and effectual Devoirs, that ye put you in to aſſiſt my Deputy Sir John Scot, in all ſuch things as *might* concern the ſafeguard of my charge there. Letting you weet, that if there be any thing that I can and may do for you, I ſhall with right good will perform it to *(the utmoſt of)* my power. And I pray you to recommend me to my Lady [1] Howard, my Lady [2] Bourgchier, and all other Ladies and Gentlewomen, of the ſaid town. And in like wiſe to the Mayor, Lieutenant and Fellowſhip of the ſtaple; my Fellows the Soldiers, and all other ſuch as (*to*) you ſhall ſeem good. And our Lord ſend you your deſires. Written at Nottingham, the 16th day of September.

His remembering "his Fellows, the Soldiers," in an age when his noble rank placed him ſo high above the Plebeians, characterizes him as a Commander attentive to the concerns of thoſe under him.

[1] Margaret, wife of Sir John Howard, Lord Howard, and afterwards Duke of Norfolk. She was Daughter of Sir John Chedworth, Knight, and died in 1490, 5 H. VII.

[2] Lady Bourchier was probably the wife of a Son of Sir John Bourchier, Lord Berners.

[3] Sr. Joh Paſton I p'y you to yeve credens to ſuche ying as my Depute ſhall ſhew you fro me and cōforme you to ye ſame.

Yr. Felaw,

Haſtyngs.

11 ¾ by 4 ¾.

[3] This laſt paragraph is written by Lord Haſtyngs himſelf, the former part to "the xvj day of September," by his Secretary.

LETTER LX.

Meſtreſſe Margrett Paſton at Norwyche.

RYGHT honorable and moſt tendr good Moodr I recomand me to yowe beſechyng yow to have, as my tryſt is yt I have, yowr dayly bleſſyng and thanke yow off yowr good moderhood, kyndeneſſe, cheer, charge and coſtes whyche I had and putte yow to, att my laſt beyng wt yow, whyche God gyffe me Grace her afftr to deſerve.

Pleaſe it yow to weet yt I thynge longe yt I heer nott ffrom yow or ffrom Pekok yowr Servaunt ffor the knowlege howe he hathe doon in ye ſale off my fferme Barlye, ner whatt is made theroff wherffor I beſeche yowe if it be not anſweryd by that tyme yt thys bylle comythe to yowe to haſt hym and itt hyddre

& Sir John Paſton I pray you to give credence to ſuch things as my Deputy ſhall ſhew you from me, and conform you to the ſame.

Your Fellow,

HASTYNGS.

Nottingham,
16th of September, 1473,
13 E. IV.

N. B. Under the Direction of this Letter is written in a hand of that time, "& Haſtyngs, A° xiij," meaning, I preſume, 13 E. IV.

LETTER LIX.

Mrs. Margaret Paſton, at Norwich.

RIGHT honourable and moſt tender good Mother, I recommend me to you, beſeeching you to have, as my truſt is that I have, your daily Bleſſing; and thank you of your good Motherhood, kindneſs, cheer, charge, and coſts, which I had, and put you to, at my laſt being with you, which God give me Grace hereafter to deſerve!

Pleaſe it you to weet, that I think long that I hear not from you, or from Peacock your Servant, for the knowledge how he hath done in the ſale of my farm Barley, nor what is made thereof; wherefore I beſeech you, if it be not anſwered by that time that this bill cometh to you, to haſt him and it hither-

hyddre wards ffor iff y^{t} had nott taryed me I deme I had been at Caleys by thys daye, ffor it is ſoo as men ſeye y^{t} y^{e} Frenſe Kynge w^{t} a gret hoſte is at [1] Amyās but iij^{xx} myle from Caleys and iff he or hys roode byffor Caleys and I nott theer I wolde be ſorye.

It'm men ſeye y^{t} the Erle of [2] Oxenfford hathe ben conſtreynyd to ſewe ffor hys pardon only off hys lyffe and hys body goodes londes w^{t} all y^{e} remenaunt at y^{e} Kynges wyll and ſoo ſholde in all haſte nowe come in to y^{e} Kyng and ſom^{e} men ſeye y^{t} he is goon owt off y^{e} Mounte men wot not to what plaſe and yit lefte a greet Garuyſon theer weell ffornyſshyd in vytayll and all other thynge.

It'm as ffor the havyng ageyn off Caſtre I truſt to have good tydyngs theroff haſtelye.

It'm my Brother John ffarethe weell and hathe doon ryght delygentlye in my coſyn Elizabz Berneys mater wheroff haſtely I truſt he ſhall ſende hyr tydyngs y^{t} ſchall pleaſe hyr and as to morow he p'poſyth to take hys Jurneye to Walys warde to y^{e} Lorde [3] Ryverſe. No mor at thys tyme but Jeſwe have yow in hys kepyng.

Wretyn

[1] The Capital of Picardy, in France.

[2] John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, a ſtaunch Friend to the Houſe of Lancaſter, fled and went abroad, after the total diſcomfiture of that Party in 1471. Our Hiſtorians ſay that he returned in the ſame year, and took by ſurpriſe St. Michael's Mount, in Cornwall, where, in February 1471-2, he ſurrendered himſelf to the King's Forces.

This

ward; for if that had not tarried me, I deem I had been at Calais by this day; for it is ſo, as men ſay, that the French King with a great Hoſt is at [1] Amiens, but threeſcore miles from Calais; and if he, or his, rode before Calais, and I not there, I would be ſorry.

Item, men ſay, that the Earl of [2] Oxford hath been conſtrained to ſue for his Pardon only of his Life; and his Body, Goods, Lands, with all the remanent, at the King's Will, and ſo ſhould in all haſte now come in to the King; and ſome men ſay, that he is gone out of the Mount, men wot not to what place, and yet left a great Garriſon there, well furniſhed in victual, and all other thing.

Item, as for the having again of Caiſter, I truſt to have good tidings thereof haſtily.

Item, my brother John fareth well, and hath done right diligently in my Couſin Elizabeth Berney's matter, whereof haſtily I truſt he ſhall ſend her tidings, that ſhall pleaſe her; and as to-morrow he purpoſeth to take his Journey to Wales ward to the Lord [3] Rivers.

No more at this time, but Jeſu have you in his keeping.

This and a previous Letter aſcertain theſe Events to have happened in 1473, being the 13th of Edward IV.

After his ſurrender, his Eſtates were confiſcated, his Counteſs left deſtitute, and he was conveyed to the Caſtle of Hammes, near Calais, in Picardy, where he remained a Priſoner many years, namely, till 1484, 2 R. III. when he eſcaped, and joined the Earl of Richmond.

[3] Anthony Widevile, Earl Rivers.

Written

Wretyn at London the xx daye off Feu'er A°. E. iiij^ti. xiij°.

Yowr Sone,

[4] J. Paſton, K.

8 ¾ by 7.

[4] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LETTER LX.

To hys Brodyr Sr. John Paſton be thys Letter delyu'ed.

SIR I recomaunde me to yow letynge yow wete that, *(Here follows ſome Account relative to a Grant from the Crown, &c.)*

As for my Lord [1] Treſerer he was not wt the Kynge of all the [2] Counſell tyme ye whyche was endyd on the iij^de day of Marche. And theder came my Lorde of [3] Northethomyrland the fyrſte day of Marche and dep'tyd the even afore ye makyng of thys Lett'. And hath endentyd wt the Kynge for the kepynge

We have in this Letter a pleaſing account of the intended excurſion of the King into divers Counties, in 1474; the motive of which moſt probably was to raiſe, more eaſily by his preſence and cheerful addreſs, Benevolences upon his Subjects towards the Expences of his war with France.

We are here informed likewiſe that the County of Norfolk had been highly ſpoken of to the King, not only for the Riches and Hoſpitality of its Inhabitants, but for the beauty and agreeable behaviour of its women; a reaſon ſufficient for ſo long a ſtay amongſt them, as ſeemed intended to be made by an amorous and handſome Monarch.

Written at London the 20th day of February, in the 13th year of Edward IV.

Your Son,

[4] J. PASTON, Knight.

London,
Sunday, 20th of February,
1473, 13 E. IV.

LETTER LX.

To his Brother Sir John Paſton, Knight, be this Letter delivered.

SIR, I recommend me unto you, letting you weet that, (*Here follows ſome Account relative to a Grant from the Crown, &c.*)

As for my Lord [1] Treaſurer he was not with the King of all the [2] council time, the which was ended on the 3d day of March. And thither came my Lord of [3] Northumberland, the firſt day of March, and departed the even afore the making of this Letter; and hath endented with the King for the keeping out of

[1] William Grey, Biſhop of Ely.

[2] The ſitting of Parliament.

[3] Henry Percy, Earl of Northumberland; this Contract was entered into by him moſt probably as Warden of the Marches; a place of truſt, honour, and profit.

This Nobleman was cruelly murdered by a Mob, in Yorkſhire, when he was there levying a public Tax in 1489.

the

owt of the Schottys and warrynge on them and ſchall have large money I can not telle y^e ſome for certeyn.

Alſo ther is an Rover takyn at Bryſtowe on Cowper as I wene and he is lyke to be hanged and he confeſſythe more of hys felawis. Alſo Edwarde Heeſtowe of Dovere is apechyd of treſon of many ſtraunge poynts, and hys accuſer and he were bothe afore the Kynge and then they were takyn apert And he hymſelfe cōffeſſyd it that hys accuſere accuſyd hym of and many other thyngs more than he was accuſyd of And he had many Lords and Gentylmen to aunſwere for hys trowthe and his demenynge afore tyme for as I hard ſey bothe the Kynge in a maner nor non of the tother Lords nor Gentylmen belevyd not hys accuſer tyl y^t he confeſſyd it hym ſelfe and ſo he is in the Towre and [4] lyke to be dede.

As for the Kyng's comynge into the contre. On Monday come fortenyght he well lye at the Abbey of Stratteſforde and ſo to Chelmnsford, yan to Syr Thomas Mongehombrey, yan to Hevenyngh'm than to Colcheſtyr yan to Ipſwyche yan to Bery yan to Dame Anne Wyngfelds and ſoo to Norwych and there woll he be on [5] Palme ſonday euyn and ſo tary there all [6] Eſter and yan to [7] Walſyngh'm. Wherefore ye had nede to warne Wyll'm Gogyne and hys felaws to p'uey them of wyne I now for eu'y man berythe me on hande that y^e towne ſchalbe dronkyn drye as Yorke was when the Kynge was ther'. Syr Mayſt' Sampſon recomaunde hym on to yow and he hathe

[4] This expreſſion ſeems to inſinuate that he would be executed privately in the Tower.
[5] 3d of April, 1474.

ſende

the Scots, and warring on them; and (*he*) ſhall have large money, I cannot tell the Sum for certain.

Alſo there is a Rover taken at Briſtol, one Cowper, as I ween [*think*], and he is like to be hanged, and he confeſſeth more of his Fellows. Alſo Edward Heeſtowe of Dover is apeached [*impeached*] of Treaſon of many ſtrange points; and his accuſer and he were both afore the King, and then they were taken apart; and he himſelf confeſſed it, that his accuſer accuſed him of, and many other things more than he was accuſed of.

And he had many Lords and Gentlemen to anſwer for his truth, and his demeaning afore time, for as I heard ſay, both the King in a manner, nor none of the other Lords, nor Gentlemen, believed not his accuſer, till that he confeſſed it himſelf, and ſo he is in the Tower, and [4] like to be dead.

As for the King's coming into the Country; on Monday come fortnight he will lie at the Abbey of Stratford, and ſo to Chelmsford; then to Sir Thomas Montgomery's; then to Heveningham; then to Colcheſter; then to Ipſwich; then to Bury; then to Dame Anne Wingfield's, and ſo to Norwich; and there will he be on [5] Palm Sunday Even; and ſo tarry there all [6] Eaſter, and then to [7] Walſingham; wherefore ye had need to warn William Gogney and his Fellows to purvey them of wine enough, for every man beareth me in hand, that the Town ſhall be drank dry as York was, when the King was there.

Sir, Maſter Sampſon recommend him unto you, and he hath

[6] 10th of April, 1474.

[7] I ſuppoſe, to pay his Devotions to the Image of our Lady there.

ſende yow a rynge be Edmonde Dorman and beſydys that he requeryd me to wryte on to yow y^t^ it were beſt for yow to p'vey yow of ſome Gentyl meny thynges ageyns the Kyngs comyng for ſuere he well brynge yow Geſts I now and therfore p'uey yow y^r^aftyr. Alſo he ſendythe yow worde that it is my Lords mende y^t^ my Syſt' w^t^ all other godely folkys y^r^ abowt ſcholde acompeny w^t^ Dame [8] Elſebethe Calthrop becauſe there is noo grete Lady ther abowte ageyns the Kyngs comynge for my Lorde hathe made grete boſte of the fayre and goode Gentylwomen' of y^e^ cōtre and ſo the Kynge ſeyd he wolde ſee them ſure.

Syr my Lorde hathe ſente on to y^e^ moſt p'te of the Gentyl men of Eſſex to wayte upon hym at Chelmnysford where as he entendythe to mete w^t^ the Kynge and y^t^ they be well apoyntyd y^t^ y^e^ Lankeſchere men may ſee y^t^ ther be Gentylmen of as grete ſobeſtaunce y^t^ y^ei^ be able to bye alle Lankeſcher' men thynke that ye amonge yow wol doo y^e^ ſame. Yo^r^ Contre is gretely boſtyd of and alſo the Inabytors of the ſame. I beſeche you to remembr my hors that ye p'miſyd me.

God kepe yow. Wretyn at Schene in haſte y^e^ vij day of Marche w^t^ the hande of yo^r^ brodyr.

[9] Wyllm Paſton.

11 ½ by 8.

Paper Mark,
A Unicorn.
Pl. xi. N° 14.

[8] Widow of Sir John Calthorp, and Daughter of Roger Wentworth, Eſquire.

LET-

ſent you a Ring by Edmond Dorman; and beſides that, he required me to write unto you, that it were beſt for you to purvey you of ſome Gentlemeny [*Gentlemanlike*] Things againſt the King's coming, for ſure he will bring you Gueſts enough, and therefore purvey you thereafter. Alſo, he ſendeth you word, that it is my Lord's mind, that my Siſter, with all other goodly Folks there about, ſhould accompany with Dame [8] Elizabeth Calthrop, becauſe there is no great Lady there about, againſt the King's coming; for my Lord hath made great boaſt of the fair and good Gentlewomen of the Country; and ſo the King ſaid, he would ſee them ſure.

Sir, my Lord hath ſent unto the moſt part of the Gentlemen of Eſſex to wait upon him at Chelmsford, whereas he intendeth, to meet with the King, and that they be well appointed, that the Lancaſhire men may ſee, that there be Gentlemen of ſo great ſubſtance that they be able to buy all Lancaſhire. Men think that ye among you will do the ſame.

Your Country is greatly boaſted of, alſo the Inhabitors of the ſame. I beſeech you to remember my horſe that you promiſed me. God keep you.

Written at Sheene in haſte, the 7th day of March, with the hand of your Brother.

[9] WILLIAM PASTON.

Sheen,
Monday, 7th of March,
1473, 14 E. IV.

[9] Autograph. Pl. v. N° 13.

LETTER LXJ.

To John Paſton Eſquyer at Norwyche, or To Rooſe dwellyng affor Meſtreſſe Paſtonys Gate in Norwych.

RYGHT wyrſhypful and weell belovyd brother I recomaunde me to yow letyng yow weet yt I have comonyd wt yowr ffreende Dawnſon and have receyvyd yowr Rynge off hym and he hathe by myn advyce ſpoken wt x hyr ij tymes he tellythe me off hyr delyng and anſwers whyche iff they wer acordyng to hys ſeyng a ffeynter Lover than ye wolde and weell aghte to take therin greet comffort ſo yt he myght haply ſlepe ye werſe iij nyghtys afftr. And ſuche delyng in parte as was bytwyen my Lady W. and yowr ffreende Danſon he wrote me a bylle theroff whyche I ſende yow herwt and that yt longyt he to me to doo therin it ſhall nott ffayle to leeve all other byſyneſſe a parte. Neu'theleſſe w'in iij dayes I hope ſo to deele herin, yt I ſuppoſe to ſette yow in ſerteynte hoghe yt ye ſhall fynde hyr ffor evyr her afftr. It is ſo as I undreſtande yt ye be as beſy on yowr ſyde ffor yowr ffreende Dawnſon wheer as ye be I praye God ſende yow bothe goode ſpede in thees werkys

I have given the former part of this Letter as a ſpecimen of the free and eaſy epiſtolary ſtyle of an age which we are too apt to conſider as almoſt entirely illiterate; on a ſimilar ſubject a modern Gentleman could ſcarcely have expreſſed himſelf in eaſier terms, or with more propriety, though in one inſtance perhaps with more politeneſs.

whyche

LETTER LXI.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, at Norwich, or To Rooſe, dwelling afore Mrs. Paſton's Gate, in Norwich.

RIGHT worſhipful and well beloved Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that I have communed with your friend Dawnſon, and have received your Ring of him, and he hath by mine advice ſpoken with [1] her two times; he telleth me of her dealing and anſwers, which if they were according to his ſaying, a fainter Lover than ye would, and well ought to, take therein great comfort, ſo that [*even though*] he might haply ſleep the worſe three nights after.

And ſuch dealing in part as was between my Lady W. and your friend Danſon he wrote me a bill thereof, which I ſend you herewith; and that that longeth to me to do therein, it ſhall not fail to leave all other buſineſs apart; nevertheleſs within three days, I hope ſo to deal herein, that I ſuppoſe to ſet you in certainty how that ye ſhall find her for ever hereafter.

It is ſo, as I underſtand, that ye be as buſy on your ſide for your friend Dawnſon, whereas [*if*] ye be, I pray God ſend you both good ſpeed in theſe works, which if they be brought

[1] I do not know to whom this refers; it relates to ſome Lady to whom he then paid his addreſſes, (the Lady W. after mentioned I ſuppoſe) and who by the next Letter appears to be Lady Walgrave, widow of Sir Richard Walgrave, Knight.

about,

whyche iff they be browte abowte iche off yowe is moche beholden to other, yit were it pyte y^t^ ſuche crafty wowers as ye be bothe ſcholde ſpeede weell, but iff ye love trewly.

It'm as ffor Stoctōns Doghtr ſhe ſhall be weddyd in haſte to Skeerne as ſhe tolde hyrſelffe to my [2] Sylkemayde whyche makyth perte off ſuche as ſhe ſhall weer, to whom ſhe brake hyr harte and tolde hyr y^t^ ſhe ſholde have hadde Maſt^r^ Paſton and my Mayde wende it had been I y^t^ ſhe ſpeke off and w^t^ moor y^t^ the ſame Meſt^r^ Paſton kome wher ſhe was w^t^ xx men and wolde have [3] taken hyr aweye. I tolde my mayde y^t^ ſhe lyed off me and y^t^ I neu' ſpake w^t^ hyr in my lyff ner y^t^ I wolde not wedde hyr to have w^t^ hyr iij^ml^ marke.

It'm as for Ebortons dowghtr my brother Edmonde ſeythe y^t^ he herde neu' moor ſpeche y^r^off ſyns yowr dep'tyng and y^r^ ye wolde y^t^ he ſholde nott breke nor doo no thynge therin but iff it come off theer begynnyng.

It'm I had anſwer ffrom my [4] Lorde y^t^ he is my ſpeciall goode Lorde and y^t^ by wryghtyng and as ffor Bernaye he ſette hym in hys owne wags ffor my ſake and y^t^ whan ſo eu' I come to Caleys I ſhall ffynde all thyng ther as woll have it and rather bett' than it was heretoffor.

It'm, y^e^ Kyng come to y^is^ towne on wednyſdaye as ffor the

[2] A perſon who made *Gowns of Silk*, &c. for both men and women, as appears from the manner in which ſhe is here mentioned.

[3] This was a method ſometimes practiſed, being conſonant to the martial gallantry of the times.

about, each of you is much beholden to other; yet were it pity that ſuch crafty Wooers, as ye be both, ſhould ſpeed well, but if [*unleſs*] ye love truly.

Item, as for Stocton's Daughter, ſhe ſhall be wedded in haſte to Skeerne, as ſhe told herſelf to my [2] Silkmaid, which maketh part of ſuch as ſhe ſhall wear, to whom ſhe broke [*opened*] her heart, and told her, that ſhe ſhould have had Maſter Paſton, and my Maid wend [*thought*] it had been I that ſhe ſpoke of; and with more [*moreover*] that the ſame Maſter Paſton come where ſhe was with 20 men, and would have [3] taken her away; I told my Maid that ſhe lied of me, and that I never ſpoke with her in my life, nor that I would not wed her to have with her 3000 Marks (2000*l.*)

Item, as for Eberton's Daughter, my brother Edmond ſaith, that he heard never more ſpeech thereof ſince your departing, and that ye would that he ſhould not break, nor do nothing therein but if [*unleſs*] it came of their beginning.

Item, I had anſwer from my [4] Lord that he is my ſpecial good Lord, and that by writing; and as for Bernay he ſet him in his own Wages for my ſake, and that whenſoever I come to Calais, I ſhall find all thing there as I would have it, and rather better than it was heretofore.

Item, the King came to this Town on Wedneſday; as

[4] I am not certain whether the Duke of Norfolk is here meant, or Lord Haſtyngs the then Governor of Calais.

for

Frenſhe [5] Embaſſate y^t is heer they come nott in y^e Kynges preſence by lykehod ffor men ſeye y^t y^e chyeff off them is he y^t poyſonyd bothe y^e Duke off Berry and the Duke off Calabr.

It'm ther was neu' mor lyklyhod y^t y^e Kyng ſhall goo ovyr thys next yer than was nowe.

I praye yow remembre y^t I maye have y^e Pewter veſſell heddr by y^e next karyer by the lattr ende off thys weke.

It'm I praye yow remembr ſo y^t I may have the bokys by the ſame tyme whyche my Moodr ſeyde ſhe wolde ſende me by the next carier.

Wretyn at London y^e ſondaye y^e xx daye off Novembr A°. E. iiij^ti. xiiij°.

[6] John Paſton, K.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.

[5] For the better underſtanding of this curious Anecdote, which reflects honour on King Edward, both as a Sovereign Prince, and a man, it will be neceſſary to inform the Reader, than in 1472, Lewis XI. King of France, finding himſelf drawn into a war with the Duke of Burgundy, in order to bring about a marriage between his brother Charles, Duke of Berry and Guienne, and Mary, the Daughter and Heir of that Duke, employed proper Perſons to deſtroy his Brother, and by that means to extricate him from theſe troubles.

The death of the Duke of Berry was effected by a ſlow poiſon, of which he died in May, 1472, aged about 26 years.

for the French [5] Ambaſſade [*Embaſſy*] that is here, they come not in the King's Preſence, by likelihood, for men ſay, that the Chief of them is he that poiſoned both the Duke of Berry and the Duke of Calabria.

Item, there was never more likelihood that the King ſhould go over ſea this next year than was now.

I pray you remember that I may have the Pewter veſſel by the next Carrier by the latter end of this week.

Item, I pray you remember ſo that I may have the Books by the ſame time, which my Mother ſaid ſhe would ſend me by the next Carrier.

Written at London, the Sunday the 20th of November, in the 14th year of Edward IV.

[6] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Sunday, 20th of November,
1474, 14 E. IV.

Mary, the richeſt Heireſs of her time, was born in 1457, and by her father, the Duke of Burgundy, was promiſed in marriage to various Potentates, and amongſt the reſt to Nicholas of Anjou, Duke of Calabria and Lorrain. This Prince died in Auguſt, 1473, aged about 25, here ſaid by poiſon, adminiſtered by the ſame hand that took off the Duke of Berry.

[6] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LETTER LVII.

To John Paſton Eſq'er.

BROTHER I recomaunde me to yow letyng yow weete y^t I have lyke as I p'myſyd yowe I have doon my devoyr to know my Lady Walg'ves ſtomacke whyche as God helpe me and to be pleyn to yowe I ffynde in hyr no mat^r nor cawſe y^t I myght tak comfort off ſche will in nowyſe receyve ner kepe yowr rynge w^t hyr and yit I tolde hyr y^t ſhe ſcholde not be any thynge bownde therby but y^t I knew by yowr herte off olde y^t I wyſt weel ye wolde be glad to fforber the leſveſt thynge y^t ye had in the worlde whyche myght be dayly in hér preſence y^t ſholde cawſe hyr onys on a daye to remembr yow but itt wolde not be. She wolde nott therby as ſhe ſeyde putte yow ner kepe yow in any comffort therby. And mor ovyr ſhe preyed me y^t I ſholde neu' take labor moor heer in ffor ſhe wolde holde hyr to ſuche anſwer as ſhe hadd geven yow to ffoor, wherw^t ſhe thowght bothe ye and I wolde have holde us contente had nott been the words off hyr Suſt Geneffyeff.

When I undreſtood all thys and that ou' nyght ſhe bad hyr y^t weent bytwyen hyr and me byd me brynge w^t me hyr Muſkeball whyche &c. than I aftr all thys axid iff ſhe weer dyſpleaſyd w^t me ffor it and ſhe ſeyde naye.

We are in this Letter brought acquainted with the manners of the time. The Lady ſhews herſelf a woman of honour, and above giving hope when ſhe meant not to encourage the addreſſes of J. Paſton. She was the widow of Sir Richard Walgrave, knight, a Yorkiſt, who was with the Earl of Kent at the taking of the town of Conquet, and the iſle of Rhée; he died young, and was ſucceeded by his brother Sir Thomas Walgrave.

Than

LETTER LXII.

To John Paſton, Eſquire.

BROTHER, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that I have, like as I promiſed you I have, done my endeavour to know my Lady Walgrave's ſtomach [*reſolution*], which, as God help me, and to be plain to you, I find in her no matter nor cauſe, that I might take comfort of.

She will in no wiſe receive, nor keep your Ring with her, and yet I told her that ſhe ſhould not be any thing bound thereby; but that I knew by your heart of old, that I wiſt well ye would be glad to forbear the leveſt [*deareſt*] thing that ye had in the world, which might be daily in her preſence, that ſhould cauſe her once on a day to remember you; but it would not be, ſhe would not thereby, as ſhe ſaid, put you, nor keep you in any comfort thereby.

And moreover ſhe prayed me, that I ſhould never take labour more herein, for ſhe would hold her to ſuch anſwer as ſhe had given you tofore; wherewith ſhe thought both ye and I would have held us content, had *(it)* not been (*for*) the words of her Siſter Genevieve.

When I underſtood all this, and that over night ſhe bad her that went between her and me, bid me bring with me her [1] Muſkball which, &c. then I after all this aſked if ſhe were diſpleaſed with me for it, and ſhe ſaid, nay.

[1] This Muſkball, or ball of perfume, ſeems to have been taken from Lady Walgrave by Sir John Paſton (Pl. IV. N° 10.) in a jeſting manner, to ſend to his brother, as a preſent from her.

Than I tolde hyr that I had nott ſent it yowe ffor ſynne off my ſowle and ſo I tolde hyr all how I had wretyn to yow why that I wold nott ſende it yow by cawſe I wyſt weell ye ſholde have ſlepyd the werſe, but nowe I tolde hyr as God helpe me y^t I wolde ſende it yow and gyffe yow myn advyſe nott to hope ovyr moche on hyr whyche is ovyr harde an hertyd Lady ffor a yonge man to tryſt on to whyche I thowght y^t ffor all my words ye cowde nott ner wolde nott do ffor all myn advyce.

Yitt ageynwards ſhe is nott dyſpleaſyd nor fforbad me nott but that ye ſholde have the kepyng off hyr Muſkball wherffor de ye w^t itt as ye lyke I wolde it hadd doon weel by Good I ſpake ffor yow ſoo that in ffeythe I trowe I kowde nott ſeye ſo weel ageyn.

Wherffor I ſende yow herw^t yowr Rynge and the onhappy Muſkeball. Alſo make ye mat' off it herafftr as ye kan, I am nott happy to wow nowther ffor my ſelff ner noon other I tolde hyr all y^e p'ceſſe off the Lorde [2] Howarde and off yowr grewnds as I kowde all helpys nott.

(*Here follows ſome diſpleaſure at his Uncle William's proceedings in matters between them, &c. of no conſequence.*)

I her no worde off my veſſell ner off my Boks I mervayll. No mor. Wretyn at London the xj daye of Decembr A^o E. iiij^ti. xiiij^o.

I P. B.

9 by 6.

Part of the Paper Mark,
Wheels, &c.
Pl. x. N° 9.

[2] He was afterwards Duke of Norfolk.

L C T.

Then I told her, that I had not ſent it you, for ſin of my ſoul; and ſo I told her all, how I had written to you, why that I would not ſend it you, becauſe I wiſt well ye ſhould have ſleeped the worſe; but now, I told her, as God help me, that I would ſend it you, and give you mine advice not to hope over much on her, which is over hard an hearted Lady for a young man to truſt unto; which I thought that for all my words, ye could not nor would not do for all mine advice.

Yet againwards ſhe is not diſpleaſed, nor forbid me not but that ye ſhould have the keeping of her Muſkball; wherefore do ye with it as ye like; I would it had done well by Good, I ſpake for you ſo, that in faith I trow I could not ſay ſo well again; wherefore I ſend you herewith your Ring, and the unhappy Muſkball; alſo make ye matter of it hereafter as ye can, I am not happy to woo neither for myſelf nor none other.

I told her all the proceſs of the Lord [2] Howard and of your grounds as I could, all helps not.

(*Here follows ſome diſpleaſure at his Uncle William's proceedings in matters between them, &c. of no conſequence.*)

I hear no word of my veſſel, nor of my Books; I marvel. No more. Written at London the 11th day of December, in the 14th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Sunday, 11th of Dec.
1474, 14 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER LXIJ.

To ye Ryght worſhypfull John Paſton Eſq'er at Norwych, or To hys modr Margreet Paſton in hys abſence in haſte.

I Recomande me to yow praying yow hertely yt I maye have weetyng when yt my Lorde and Lady of Norff ſhalle be at London and howgh longe they ſhall tery theer and in eſpeciall my Lorde of Norff ffor uppon ther comyng to London wer it ffor me to be guydyd Neu'theleſſe I wolde be ſoory to come theer but iff I neds moſt I thynke it wolde be to yow ouyr erkſom a labor to ſolycyte the maters atwyen them and me but iff I weer theer myſelffe wherffor iff ye thynke it be convenyent that I com thyddr I praye yow ſende me worde as haſtely as ye maye and by what tyme ye thynke moſt convenyent yt I ſholde be theer and off all ſuche coũfforte as ye ffynde or heer off the towardneſſe theroff. and when alſo yt ye ſhall be theer yowr ſelffe. For it is ſo yt as to morow I p'poſe to ryde in to Flaundrys to p'veye me off horſe and herneys. and p' caſe I ſhall ſee the aſſege at [1] Nwſe er I come ageyn iff I have tyme, wherffor iff I ſo doo by lyklyhod it woll be a xiiij dayes er I be heer ageyn and

Though this Letter has no ſignature, yet it is written by Sir John Paſton, Knight. Pl. IV. N° 9.

The buſineſs mentioned in the firſt part of this Letter, on which Sir John was ſo anxious to attend the Duke and Ducheſs of Norfolk, was relative to Caiſter, &c.

And

LETTER LXIII.

To the right worſhipful John Paſton, Eſquire, at Norwich, or To his Mother Margaret Paſton, in his abſence, in haſte.

I Recommend me to you, praying you heartily, that I may have weeting [*knowledge*] when that my Lord and Lady of Norfolk ſhall be at London, and how long they ſhall tarry there, and in eſpecial my Lord of Norfolk; for upon their coming to London were it for me to be guided; nevertheleſs I would be ſorry to come there but if [*unleſs*] I needs muſt. I think it would be to you over irkſome a labour to ſolicit the matters atween them and me, but if [*unleſs*] I were there myſelf; wherefore, if ye think it be convenient that I come thither, I pray you ſend me word as haſtily as ye may, and by what time ye think moſt convenient, that I ſhould be there; and of all ſuch comfort as ye find or hear of the towardneſs thereof, and when alſo that ye ſhall be there yourſelf; for it is ſo that as tomorrow I purpoſe to ride into Flanders to purvey me of Horſe and Harneſs, and percaſe [*perchance*] I ſhall ſee the Siege of [1] Nuys ere I come again, if I have time; wherefore, if I ſo do, by likelihood it will be a 14 days ere I be here again;

And his journey into Flanders to purchaſe horſe and harneſs, was in conſequence of the Treaty entered into between Edward and the Duke of Burgundy, which would be productive of a war with France.

[1] Nuys, is a Town in Germany, in the circle of the Lower Rhine, and Electorate of Cologn, on the Weſt ſide of the Rhine.

and afftr as I heer ffrom yowe and other ther uppon that at the next paſſage and God woll I p'poſe to come to London warde God ſende me goode ſpede, in cheff ffor y^e^ mat' above wretyn and ſecondly ffor to appoynt w^t^ the Kyng and my Lorde ffor ſuche retynwe as I ſholde have now in thees werrys in to Frawnce wherffor I praye yow in Norff and other places comon w^t^ ſuche as ye thynke lykly ffor yow and me y^t^ ar dyſpoſyd to take wags in Gentylmenns howſys and ellys wher ſo y^t^ we maye be the moor redy when y^t^ nede is neu'theleſſe at thys owr I wolde be gladde to have w^t^ me deyly iij or iiij mor than I have ſuche as weer lykly ffor I lakke off my retynwe y^t^ I h ve neer ſo many. I praye yow ſende me ſom tydyngs ſuche as ye heer and howghe y^t^ my brother Edmonde dothe.

For as ffor tydyngs heer ther be but ffewe ſaffe y^t^ the aſſege laſtyth ſtylle by the Duke off Burgoyn affoor Nuſe and the [2] Emp'or hathe beſegyd alſo not fferr from theſe a Caſtell and an other town in lyke wyſe wher in y^e^ Dukys men ben. And alſo y^e^ Frenſhe Kynge men ſeye is comyn ryght to the wat' off [3] Somme w^t^ iiij^ml^ [4] ſpers and ſom men trowe y^t^ he woll at y^e^ daye off brekyng off [5] trewſe or ellys byffoor ſette uppon the Duks Contreys heer. When I heer moor I ſhall ſende yowe moor tydyngs.

The Kyngs Inbaſſators S^r^ Thomas Mongom'e and y^e^ [6] Maſt^r^

[2] Frederick III. of Auſtria, Emperor of Germany.
[3] A River running through Picardy, in France.
[4] Soldiers with armed Spears, &c.

off

and after, as I hear from you and others thereupon, that at the next paſſage, and God will, I purpoſe to come to London ward: God ſend me good ſpeed; in chief for the matter above written; and ſecondly, for to appoint with the King and my Lord, for ſuch Retinue as I ſhould have now in theſe wars into France; wherefore I pray you in Norfolk, and other places, commune with ſuch as ye think likely for you and me, that are diſpoſed to take wages in Gentlemen's Houſes and elſewhere, ſo that we may be the more ready, when that need is; nevertheleſs at this hour, I would be glad to have with me daily three or four more than I have, ſuch as were likely; for I lack of my Retinue, that I have near ſo many.

I pray you ſend me ſome tidings, ſuch as ye hear, and how that my brother Edmund doth; for as for tidings here, there be but few, ſave that the Siege laſteth ſtill by the Duke of Burgundy afore Nuys, and the [2] Emperor hath beſieged alſo, not far from thence, a Caſtle, and another Town in like wiſe, wherein the Duke's men be.

And alſo, the French King, men ſay, is coming nigh to the water of [3] Somme with 4000 [4] Spears, and ſome men trow [*think*] that he will, at the day of breaking of [5] Truce, or elſe before, ſet upon the Duke's Countries here.

When I hear more, I ſhall ſend you more tidings.

The King's Ambaſſador Sir Thomas Montgomery and the [6] Maſ-

[5] This Truce between Louis XI. King of France, and the Duke of Burgundy, was to be at an end in the beginning of the ſummer in 1475.

[6] Dr. John Morton, afterwards Biſhop of Ely, Lord Chancellor, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Cardinal.

off the Rolls be comyng homwards ffrom [7] Nuſe and as ffor me I thynke y[t] I ſholde be ſek but iff I ſee it.

Syr John off Parre and Willm Berkeley com thys weye to Flaundrs ward to by them horſe and [8] herneys and made S[r]. J. Parr goode cheer as I cowde ffor yowr ſake and he tolde me y[t] ye made hym haulte cheer &c. at Norwyche. No moor. Wretyn at Caleys the xvij daye off Janeu' A° Edwardi iiij[ti]. xiiij°.

11 ½ by 8 ½.

[7] The Duke perſiſted in this Siege, though the Emperor, with a large force, was in the neighbourhood, much to his own diſadvantage, as it prevented his meeting the King of England; and at laſt the Siege was raiſed on certain conditions.

LETTER LVII.

On the back of the foregoing Letter, is written by Mrs. Margaret Paſton (Pl. II. N° 20.) *to her Son, John Paſton, the following.*

JOHN PASTON I ſend yow Godds blyſſyng and myn letyng yow wete y[t] I hadd non er thys lettyr than on Sent Matheus evyn yf I myth a had an maſſenger or thys tym I had ſent yt yow I con yow thank for y[e] lettyr y[t] ye ſent to my Coſyn Calthorpp and me of the tydyngs I wold ye ſhuld do ſoo mor as ye may remēbyr y[t] I ſpak to yow for y[e] xx[ti] li for my Coſyn Clere ſpek to yowr hunkyll therof and ſend me an anſwer therof

ter of the Rolls be coming homeward from [7] Nuys, and as for me, I think that I ſhould be ſick but if [*unleſs*] I ſee it.

Sir John of Parre and William Berkeley come this way to Flanders ward to buy them Horſe and [8] Harneſs, and (*I*) made Sir J. Parr (*as*) good cheer as I could for your ſake; and he told me, that ye made him haulte [*high*] cheer, &c. at Norwich. No more. Written at Calais, the 17th day of January, in the 14th year of Edward IV.

Calais,
Tueſday, 17th of January,
1474, 14 E. IV.

[8] This term implies armour.

LETTER LXIV.

On the back of the foregoing Letter, is written by Mrs. Margaret Paſton, to her Son John Paſton, the following.

JOHN PASTON, I ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, letting you weet, that I had none ere this Letter than on Saint Matthew's even; if I might have had a Meſſenger ere this time I had ſent it you; I con you thank for the Letter that ye ſent to my Couſin Calthorp and me of the tidings; I would ye ſhould do ſo more. As ye may remember that I ſpake to you for the 20l. for my Couſin Clere, ſpeak to your Uncle thereof, and ſend me an anſwer thereof in haſte.

therof in haſt and for y^e [1] lycens y^t I ſpak to yow for to have y^e Sacrement in my Chapell yf ye cannot getyt of y^e Buſshop of Norwych getyt of y^e Buſshop of Caunterbery for y^t ys moſt ſwyr for all plaſe God kepe yow. Wretyn on Mydlent Sunday.

[1] We are here informed that the Archbiſhop's Licence was preferable to that of the Diöceſan, and ſeemed to have greater Privileges annexed to it.

LETTER LXI.

To the right worſhipffull S^r. John Paſton knyght in haſte.

RIGHT welbeloved Sone &c. *(The chief part of this Letter relates to Sir John Paſton's private affairs, his rents and lands, and informs him that William Jenney had entered into Holme-halle in Filby in the ryght and titell of his Douterlawe weche was Boys Doughter, &c.)*

As for tidyngs here in this Contre we have non but that the Contry is bareyn of money and y^t my Lady of [1] Yorke and all her howſold is here at Sent [2] Benetts and p'poſed to abide there ſtille

[1] Cecily, Ducheſs of York, Daughter of Ralph Neville, Earl of Weſtmoreland, was the Widow of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and Mother of King Edward IV. &c. She died in 1495, and was buried near her huſband in the college of Fotheringay.

[2] The Abbey of St. Bennet at Holm was ſituated in the pariſh of Horning in Norfolk, in the midſt of a now dreary and ſolitary marſh, not likely to be choſen for the wholeſomeneſs of the air.

The

And for the [1] Licence that I ſpake to you, for to have the Sacrament in my Chapel, if ye cannot get it of the Biſhop of Norwich, get it of the Biſhop of Canterbury, for that is moſt ſure for all places.

God keep you. Written on Midlent Sunday.

Midlent Sunday,
5th of March, 1474,
15 E. IV.

LETTER LXV.

To the right worſhipful Sir John Paſton, Knight, in haſte.

RIGHT well beloved Son, &c. *(The chief part of this Letter relates to Sir John Paſton's private affairs, his rents and lands, and it informs him that William Jenney had entered into Holm Hall, in Filby, in the right and title of his Daughter in law, which was Boys's Daughter, &c.)*

As for tidings here in this Country, we have none, but that the Country is barren of money; and that my Lady of [1] York and all her Houſehold is here at Saint [2] Bennet's, and purpoſed

The remains of this once 'grand' and mitred Abbey, are now very ſmall, ſtanding in the midſt of a level marſh, interſected by a great number of almoſt ſtagnant ditches.

I am however informed by a moſt reſpectable Gentleman, whoſe Seat is in the neighbourhood, that many of the Towns ſurrounding this ſpot are remarkable for the longevity of their Inhabitants.

If ſuch is the effect of this air now, perhaps in the flouriſhing ſtate of the Abbey, it might be ſtill more ſalubrious.

to

ſtille til the Kynge come from be yonde the [3] ſee and lenger if ſhe like the eyre ther as it is ſeide.

I thynke ryght longe tille I here ſom' tidyngs [4] for you and from yo[r] brethern I prey God ſende you and al yo[r] Company goode ſpede in yo[r] Jōrneys to his pleſure and to yo[r] worſhippes and p'fights. Wreten at Mauteby on Sen Lawrens even the xv yere of the regne of Kyng E. the iiijth.

Be yor [5] Poder.

12 by 9 ½.

3 He was at this time in France.
4 Quære, from?

LETTER LVI.

To S[r]. John Paſton knyght lodgyd at the George by Powlys wherff in London.

AFTYR all dwtes of recomendacyon pleaſe it yow to undyrſtand that I have ſpoken w[t] my Lady ſythe I wrot to yow laſt, and ſhe told me that the Kyng had no ſyche woordys to my Lord for Caſt' as ye told me but ſhe ſeyth that the Kyng axid my Lord at hys dep'tȳg fro Caleys how he wold deele w[t] Caſt' and my Lord anſwerd nevyr a woord

S[r]

to abide there ſtill, till the King come from beyond the [3] Sea, and longer if ſhe like the air there, as it is ſaid.

I think right long till I hear ſome tidings [4] for you and from your brethren. I pray God ſend you, and all your Company good ſpeed in your Journies, to his pleaſure, and to your worſhips and profits.

Written at Maultby, on Saint Laurence's even, the 15th year of the reign of King Edward the IV.

By your [5] Mother.

Mawtby,
Thurſday, 10th of Auguſt,
1475, 15 E. IV.

[5] Margaret Paſton, Daughter and Heir of John Mawtby, Eſquire, and widow of John Paſton, Eſquire. Pl. 11. N° 20.

LETTER LXVI.

To Sir John Paſton, Knight, lodged at the George, by Paul's Wharff, in London.

AFTER all duties of recommendation, pleaſe it you to underſtand, that I have ſpoken with my Lady ſince I wrote to you laſt; and ſhe told me that the King had no ſuch words to my Lord for Caiſter, as ye told me; but ſhe ſaith, that the King aſked my Lord at his departing from Calais, how he would deal with Caiſter, and my Lord anſwered never a word.

Sr. W. [1] Brandon ſtood by and the Kyng axid hym what my Lord wold do in that mater ſeyīg that he had comandyd hym befor tyme to meve my Lord wt that mater and Sr. W. Brandon gave the Kyng to anſwer that he had doone ſo then the Kyng axid Sr. W. B. what my Lordys anſwer was to hym and Sr. W. B. told the Kyng that my Lords anſwer was that the Kyng ſhold as ſoone have hys lyff as that place and then the Kyng axid my Lord whedyr he ſeyd ſo or nought and my Lord ſeyd yee and the Kyng ſeyd not o woord ayen but tornyd hys bak and went hys wey, but my Lady told me and the Kyng had ſpokyn any woord in the world aftyr that to my Lord, my Lord wold not have ſeyd hym nay And I have gevyn my Lady warnȳg that I wyll do my Lord no more ſerveys, but er we p'tyd ſhe mad me to make hyr promeſs that I ſhold let hyr have knowlege er I faſtonyd myſelff in eny other ſervyſſe and ſo I dep'tyd and ſye hyr not ſyneſs, nor nought p'poſe to doo tyll I ſpek wt yow.

I prey yow bryng home ſome hattys wt yow or and ye come not haſtyly ſend me on, &c. and I ſhall pay yow for it a Comb [2] Otys when ye come home.

My Modyr wold fayn have yow at Mawtby ſhe rode thydyr ought of Norwyche on ſat'day laſt paſt to p'vey yor lodgȳg redy ayenſt yor cōmȳg.

This Letter records a moſt curious converſation between the King, the Duke of Norfolk, and Sir William Brandon, relative to Caiſter.

[1] Sir William Brandon was father of Charles Brandon, afterwards created Duke of Suffolk.

I have

Sir W. [1] Brandon ſtood by, and the King aſked him, what my Lord would do in that matter; ſaying, that he had commanded him before time to move my Lord with that matter, and Sir W. Brandon gave the King to anſwer, that he had done ſo; then the King aſked Sir W. B. what my Lord's anſwer was to him, and Sir W. B. told the King, that my Lord's anſwer was, that the King ſhould as ſoon have his life as that place; and then the King aſked my Lord, whether he ſaid ſo or not, and my Lord ſaid, yea. And the King ſaid not one word again, but turned his back, and went his way; but my Lady told me, and [*if*] the King had ſpoken any word in the world after that to my Lord, my Lord would not have ſaid him, nay.

And I have given my Lady warning that I will do my Lord no more ſervice; but ere we parted, ſhe made me to make her (*a*) promiſe, that I ſhould let her have knowledge ere I faſtened myſelf in any other ſervice; and ſo I departed, and ſee her not ſince, nor nought purpoſe to do, till I ſpeak with you.

I pray you bring home ſome Hats with you, or and [*if*] ye come not haſtily, ſend me one, &c. and I ſhall pay you for it a Comb (*of*) [2] Oats, when ye come home.

My Mother would fain have you at Mawtby; ſhe rode thither, out of Norwich on Saturday laſt paſt, to purvey your lodging ready againſt your coming.

[2] In 1475, a Comb of Oats ſold for 11*d*. we have therefore the value of a Hat in this reign.

I have been ryght [3] ſeek ayen ſythe I wroote to yow laſt and thys ſame day have I ben peſſȳg ſeek it wyll not ought of my ſtomak by no mean I am undon I may not ete halff I nough when I have moſt hungyr I am ſo well dyettyd and yet it wyll not be God ſend yow heele for have non iij dayes to gedyr do the beſt I can.

Wretyn at Norwyche the monday next be for Seynt [4] Simone and Jude A°. E. iiij xv°.

[5] J. P.

11 ½ by 7 ½.

[3] I have put in this account of his ſickneſs, to ſhow the ſenſible method preſcribed for his recovery, by dieting him, and debarring him from much victuals.

LETTER LXIV.

This Letter has no Direction, but it is written either To John Paſtön Eſquier or Margaret Paſton.

LYKE it yow to weete y^t^ not in y^e^ moſt happy ſeaſon ffor me it is ſo ffortunyd y^t^ wher as my Lorde off [1] Norffolke yiſt'daye beying in goode heele thys nyght dyed

This Letter ſhews us, how anxious our Anceſtors were, that every due mark of Diſtinction, according to his rank, ſhould be paid to the Corpſe of a Nobleman. They ſeemed moreover to think every attention of that ſort not only for the honour of the deceaſed, but likewiſe conducive to the future happineſs of his Soul.

In this enlightened age we ſmile at the ſuperſtitious part of this eager concern for external parade; but I own, I think that all Perſons of Rank and Fortune ſhould be borne to the Grave with thoſe Marks of Honour and Diſtinction, which were due to their Rank in the Community, in which they lived; and not ſent to the family Vault (according to the preſent faſhion of the times) unmourned and unattended.

Subordination, in every Government, is neceſſary for the well being of the whole; and that this ſhould be effectually preſerved, thoſe dignified Diſtinctions, which modern manners ſeem too much to neglect, are abſolutely neceſſary.

abowte

I have been right [3] ſick again ſince I wrote to you laſt, and this ſame day have I been paſſing ſick; it will not out of my ſtomach by no mean, I am undone. I may not eat half enough, when I have moſt hunger, I am ſo well dieted, and yet it will not be. God ſend you heele [*health*], for (*I*) have none three days together, do the beſt I can.

Written at Norwich, the Monday next before Saint [4] Simon and Jude, in the 15th year of Edward IV.

[5] JOHN PASTON.

Norwich,
Monday, 23d of October,
1475, 15 E. IV.

[4] 28th of October.
[5] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

LETTER LXVII.

This Letter has no Direction, but it is written either To John Paſton, Eſquire, or Margaret Paſton.

LIKE it you to weet, that not in the moſt happy ſeaſon for me, it is ſo fortuned, that whereas my Lord of [1] Norfolk, yeſterday being in good health, this night died about

[1] John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, &c. was retained by Edward IV. to ſerve him in his wars in France, in 1473; he married Elizabeth, Daughter of John Talbot, firſt Earl of Shrewſbury, and died ſuddenly at his Caſtle of Framlingham, on the 17th of January, 1475, 15 E. IV. and was buried in the Abbey Church of Thetford, in Norfolk.

He left an only Daughter and Heir, Anne, married in her early age to Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, who dying without iſſue, the great Poſſeſſions and Honours of this noble Family came to Sir John Howard, Knight, Lord Howard, whoſe Mother was a Siſter and Coheir of Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

abowte mydnyght wherffor it is ffor alle y^t^ lovyd hym to doo and helpe nowe that that maye be to hys honoure and weell to hys Sowele. And it is ſoo y^t^ thys contre is nott weell p'veyd off Clothe off Golde ffor the Coveryng ffor hys bodye and herſe wherffor eu'y man helpyng to hys power I putte the [2] Cowncell off my Lorde in cowmffort y^t^ I hoped to gete one ffor that daye if it weer ſo y^t^ it be nott broken or putt to other uſe.

Wherffor pleaſe it yow to ſende me worde iff it be ſo y^t^ ye have or kan kom by the Clothe off Tyſſywe y^t^ I bowte ffor our ffaders tombe and I undretake it ſhall be ſaffyd ageyn ffor yowe on hurt at my perell I deeme herby to gete greet thanke and greet aſſyſtence in tyme to come and that owther Syme or Mother Brown maye deliu' it me to morow by vij off y^e^ clokke.

It'm as ffor other means I have ſente my ſervaunt Richard Toring to London whyche I hope ſhall brynge me goode tydyngs ageyn and w^t^ in iiij dayes I hope to ſee yowe.

Wretyn on wednyſdaye xvij daye off Janyver A°. E. iiij^ti^ xv°.

[3] John Paſton, K.

8 ¼ by 5 ¼.

[2] Thoſe Officers of the Duke's Houſehold, who compoſed his Council, were in attendance at Framlingham, or they could not ſo immediately have been called together, as his death was ſo very ſudden.

Such was the magnificence of our ancient Nobility, that their Houſeholds were eſtabliſhed on the plan of a Court. Like ſuch royal Eſtabliſhments, they had their Council, Comptroller, Chamberlain, Treaſurer, &c. &c. The Council of the Duke of Norfolk muſt therefore have been attending in the houſe where he reſided.

See the Earl of Northumberland's Houſehold Book, &c.

midnight, wherefore it is for all that loved him to do and help now that, that may be to his honour, and weal to his Soul; and it is ſo, that this Country is not well purveyed of Cloth of Gold for the covering for his Body and Herſe; wherefore every man helping to his power, I put the [2] Council of my Lord in comfort, that I hoped to get one for that day, if it were ſo that it be not broken, or put to other uſe; wherefore pleaſe it you to ſend me word if it be ſo, that ye have, or can come by the Cloth of Tiſſue, that I bought for our Father's Tomb, and I undertake it ſhall be ſaved again for you unhurt at my peril; I deem hereby to get great thanks, and great aſſiſtance in time to come; and that either Sym or Mother Brown may deliver it me to-morrow by ſeven of the clock.

Item, as for other means, I have ſent my ſervant Richard Toring to London, which I hope ſhall bring me good tidings again, and within four days I hope to ſee you.

Written on Wedneſday the 17th day of January, in the 15th year of Edward IV.

[3] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Framlingham,
Wedneſday, 17th of January,
1475, 15 E. IV.

[3] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LET-

LETTER LXVIII.

To John Paſton Eſq'er at Norwyche be thys delyu'yd.

I Recomaunde me to yow letyng yow weete y^t^ I was infformyd by Ric Radle y^t^ on Scarlett y^t^ was Undreſcheryff to [1] Haſtyngs wolde ſywe to me on yowr behalff ffor that ye weer dyſpleaſyd w^t^ a ret^n^e off [2] Nichill uppon yow in y^e^ ſeyde Haſtyngs tyme wherffor Ric Radle thoghte y^t^ the ſeyde Scarlett wolde be gladde to gyff yow a Noble or a Riall ffor a Sadell to amends ſo y^t^ ye wolde ſeaſe and ſtoppe the bylle whyche ye entende to putt into y^e^ corte ageyn hys Maſt' Haſtyngs.

Wherffor the ſeyde Scarlett com to me and prayed me to helpe in the ſame and ſo I have don my devoir to ffeele off hym the moſt y^t^ he can ffynde in hys ſtomake to dep't w^t^ to pleaſe yow and in concluſyon I trowe he ſhall gyff yow a doblett clothe off Sylke p'ce xx^s^ or y^r^about whyche uppon ſuche anſweer as I heer ffrom yowe I deme y^t^ Byſshop the Atornye ſhall iff I conclude w^t^ hym on yowr behalve paye in mony or otherwyſe to whom y^t^ ye woll aſſynge heer.

I have given the whole of this Letter as conveying to us ſome information relative to the ordinary tranſactions of the times.

The Anecdote of the Duke of York's marrying Anne, the Daughter of the deceaſed Duke of Norfolk, depending on the Ducheſs (who appears to have been left with child at the Duke's deceaſe) not having a Son, is I believe both new and curious, and ſhows us that Alliances as well in thoſe days as at preſent, were eſtimated according to the poſſeſſions and pecuniary advantages they brought with them.

LETTER LXVIII.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, at Norwich, be this delivered.

I Recommend me to you, letting yow weet, that I was informed by Richard Radle, that one Scarlett, that was Underſheriff to [1] Haſtyngs, would ſue to me on your behalf, for that ye were diſpleaſed with a Return of [2] Nichil upon you in the ſaid Haſtyngs' time; wherefore Richard Radle thought that the ſaid Scarlett would be glad to give a Noble (6*s.* 8*d.*) or a Rial (10*s.* 0*d.*) for a Saddle to amends, ſo that ye would ceaſe and ſtop the bill, which ye intend to put into the Court againſt his Maſter Haſtyngs.

Wherefore the ſaid Scarlett came to me, and prayed me to help in the ſame, and ſo I have done my devoir [*endeavour*] to feel of him the moſt he can find in his ſtomach to depart with to pleaſe you; and in concluſion I trow, he ſhall give you a Doublet Cloth of ſilk, price 20s. or thereabout; which upon ſuch anſwer as I hear from you, I deem that Biſhop the Attorney ſhall, if I conclude with him on your behalf, pay in money or otherwiſe, to whom that ye will aſſign here.

[1] John Haſtyngs was Sheriff of Norfolk the preceding year.

[2] Nihils or Nichils, are iſſues which the Sheriff that is appoſed in the Exchequer ſays, are *nothing worth* and illeviable, through the inſufficiency of the Parties from whom due.

I ſhall

I ſhall by the means of Raddele weet at whoys ſywte it was takyn owte. I deme it ſom thynge doon by craffte by the means off them that have entreſſe in your lond to yentent to noyſe itt therys or to make yow paſt ſhame off the ſellyng theroff. It'm I have receyvyd a lett' ffrom yowe wretyn on tyweſdaye laſt.

It'm wher y^{t} ſom towards my Lady off Norff' noyſe y^{t} I dyd onkyndely to ſende ſo haſtely to Caſt' as I dyd, y^{r} is no dyſcrete p'ſon y^{t} ſo thynkyth, ffor if my Lorde hade ben as kynde to me as he myght have ben and acordyng to ſuche hert and ſervyce as my Grauntffadr my ffadr yowr ſelff and I have owght and doon to my Lords off Norff' y^{t} ded ben, and yitt iff I hadde weddyd hys Dowghtr, yitt moſt I have doon as I dydde.

And moor ovyr iff I had hadde any demyng off my Lordys Dethe iiij howrs or he dyed I moſt neds but iff I wolde be knowyn a ffoole have entryd it the howr byffor hys dyceſſe, but in effecte theygh that in y^{t} mater have alweys ment onkyndely to me they ffeyne y^{t} Rumor ageyn me, but ther is noon that ment truly to hym y^{t} dede is y^{t} wolde be ſory y^{t} I hadde itt and in eſpeciall ſuche as love hys ſowle.

It'm wher it is demyd y^{t} my Lady wolde herafftr be the rather myn *hevy Lady ffor y^{t} delyng I thynke y^{t} ſhe is to reſonable ſo to be, ffor I did it nott onwyſt to hyr Cowncell, y^{r} was no man thoght y^{t} I ſholde doo otherwyſſe an as to ſeye y^{t} I myght have hadde my Ladyes advyce or lyve, I myght have teryed yitt or I cowde have ſpeken w^{t} hyr, or yitt have hadde

any

I ſhall by the means of Radle weet at whoſe ſuit it was taken out; I deem it ſomething done by craft, by the means of them that have entreſſe [*intereſt*] in your land, to the intent to noiſe it theirs, or to make you paſt ſhame of the ſelling thereof.

Item, I have received a letter from you written on Tueſday laſt.

Item, where that [*whereas*] ſome towards my Lady of Norfolk noiſe that I did unkindly to ſend ſo haſtily to Caiſter as I did; there is no diſcreet perſon that ſo thinketh; for if my Lord had been as kind to me as he might have been, and according to ſuch heart [*good will*] and ſervice as my Grandfather, my Father, yourſelf, and I, have ought and done to my Lords of Norfolk that dead been, and yet [*even*] if I had wedded his Daughter, yet muſt I have done as I did; and moreover, if I had had any deeming of my Lord's death four hours ere he died, I muſt needs, but if [*unleſs*] I would be known a Fool, have entered it the hour before his deceaſe; but in effect, they that in that matter have always meant unkindly to me, they feign that Rumour againſt me; but there is none that meant truly to him that dead is, that would be ſorry that I had it, and in eſpecial ſuch as love his Soul.

Item, where *(as)* it is deemed that my Lady would hereafter be the rather mine * heavy [*unkind*] Lady for that dealing, I think that ſhe is too reaſonable ſo to be, for I did it not unwiſt [*unknown*] to her Council; there was no man thought that I ſhould do otherwiſe, and as to ſay, that I might have had my Lady's advice and leave, I might have tarried yet, ere I could have ſpoken with her, or yet have had any body to have

* That is, bear hard upon me.

any body to have mevyd hyr yron my behalve as ye wote I dydde what I cowde. Moreovyr I taryed by the advyce off Sr. Robt. Wyngffelde iij dayes yr, ffor yt he putte me in comffirt yt ye [3] Lord Howard and hys brother Sr. John ſholde have comen to Norwyche att whoys comyng he dowtyd nott but yt I ſholde have a goode dyrecton takyn ffor me in that mat' they leyhe to me onkyndeneſſe ffor ovyrkyndeneſſe.

It'm as ffor my Mat' heer itt was thys daye beffoor alle the Lordes off the Cowncelle and amonge them all it was nott thowght yt in my ſendyng off Whetley thyddr in media'tly afftr the dyceſſe off ye Duke yt I dalt onkyndly or onfyttyngly but yt I was moor onreſonably dalte wth wherffor lat' men deme what they wylle gretteſt clerkys are nott alweye wyſeſt men, but I hope haſtely to have on weye in it or other.

It'm I wende to have ffownde a Gowne off myn heer, but it come home the ſame daye yt I come owte browght by Herry Berker lodr I wolde in alle haſt poſſible have that ſame Gowne off [4] puke ffurryd wt whyght lambe. It'm I wolde have my longe ruſſett Gowne off ye ffrenſhe ruſſett in alle haſt ffor I have no Gowne to goo in her.

It'm I praye yow recomande me to my Moodr and lat us alle prey God ſende my Lady off Norff' a Soone, for uppon yt reſtythe moche mat' ffor if the Kyngys [5] Soone-mary my

[3] Afterwards Duke of Norfolk.

[4] As it is probable that Sir John Paſton (Pl. iv. N° 9.) would put on mourning for the Duke of Norfolk, if it was the cuſtom of the times, I ſhould wiſh to know whether Gowns of Puke and Ruſſet colours were then uſed on thoſe occaſions.

Puck or Pouk is an old Gothic word ſignifying the Devil, ſee Pierce Plowman, Spenſer, &c. Hence Puke became ſynonymous to black, or dark grey, and conſequently might be uſed for mourning. In Barrett's Alveare 1580, it is explained as a colour between ruſſet and black, and is rendered in Latin by Pullus. On Good Friday the Lord Mayor and Aldermen always wore their *pewke gowns*.

moved her there on my behalf, as ye wot I did what I could; moreover I tarried by the advice of Sir Robert Wingfield three days there, for that he put me in comfort that the Lord [3] Howard, and his brother Sir John, ſhould have come to Norwich, at whoſe coming he doubted not but that I ſhould have a good direction taken for me in that matter, they lay to me unkindneſs for overkindneſs.

Item, as for my matter here, it was this day before all the Lords of the Council, and among them all, it was not thought, that in my ſending of Wheatley thither, immediately after the deceaſe of the Duke, that I dealt unkindly or unfittingly, but that I was more unreaſonably dealt with; wherefore, let men deem what they will, greateſt Clerks are not always wiſeſt men; but I hope haſtily to have one way in it or other.

Item, I wend [*thought*] to have found a Gown of mine here, but it come home the ſame day that I come out, brought by Harry Berker Load[r] [*carrier*]. I would in all haſte poſſible have that ſame Gown of [4] puke furred with white Lamb.

Item, I would have my long Ruſſet Gown of the French Ruſſet in all haſte, for I have no Gown to go in here.

Item, I pray you recommend me to my Mother, and let us all pray God *(to)* ſend my Lady of Norfolk a Son, for upon that reſteth much matter; for if the King's [5] Son marry my Lord's

[5] Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, ſecond Son of King Edward IV. in January 1477, married Anne, ſole Daughter and Heir of John Mowbray, late Duke of Norfolk. She died in her early years without iſſue, and he is ſuppoſed to have been murdered by his Uncle the Duke of Glouceſter, in 1483.

The Ducheſs of Norfolk therefore either miſcarried, or the Child died ſoon after its birth, as Anne was at her marriage ſole Daughter and Heir of the Mowbray Honours and Poſſeſſions.

Lords Dowghtr the Kynge wolde y^t^ hys Soone ſholde have a ffayr place in Norff' thowhe he ſholde gyffe me ij tymes y^e^ valywe in other londe as I am doon tō weete. I praye yow ſende me worde off my Ladyes ſpede as ſoone as ye kan.

It'm as ffor Bowen I ſhall ffele hym and ſholde have doon thowghe ye hadde nott ſente.

It'm ther is offryd me a goode marriage for my Suſt' Anne Skypw'thys ſone and heyr off Lynkolneſhyre a man v or vj^li^ mrke by year. No mor.

Wretyn at London y^e^ xxvij daye off Janyver A°. E. iiij^ti^. xv°.

It'm my Lady off [6] Exceſt' is ded and it was ſeyde y^t^ bothe y^e^ olde Dywcheſſe off [7] Norff' and y^e^ Cownteſſe off [8] Oxenfforde weer ded but it is nott ſoo yitt. It'm I ſhall remembr Caleyſe bothe for horſe and alle, &c.

11 ¾ by 10 ¼.

[6] Anne, Daughter of Richard, Duke of York, Siſter of Edward IV. and widow of Henry Holland, the laſt Duke of Exeter, her firſt huſband; ſhe died 14th of January, 1475, and lies buried with Sir Thomas Saint Leger, Knight, her ſecond Huſband, in a private Chapel at Windſor.

Daughter, the King would that his Son ſhould have a fair place in Norfolk, though he ſhould give me two times the value in other land, as I am done to weet [*informed*].

I pray you ſend me word of my Lady's ſpeed as ſoon as ye can.

Item, as for Bowen I ſhall feel him [*found his inclination*], and ſhould have done, though ye had not ſent.

Item, there is offered me a good marriage for my Siſter Anne, Skipwith's ſon and heir of Lincolnſhire, a man (*of*) 5 or 600 marks (*between* 3 *and* 400*l.*) by the year.

No more. Written at London the 27th day of January, in the 15th year of Edward IV.

Item, my Lady of [6] Exeter is dead, and it was ſaid, that both the old Ducheſs of [7] Norfolk, and the Counteſs of [8] Oxford were dead, but it is not ſo yet.

Item, I ſhall remember Calais both for horſe and all, &c.

London,
Saturday, 27th of January,
1475, 15 E. IV.

[7] Ellenor, only Daughter of William Bourchier, Earl of Ewe, in Normandy, and widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

[8] Margaret, Daughter of Richard Nevile, Earl of Saliſbury, and wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, now a Priſoner in the Caſtle of Hammes, in Picardy: or it may refer to Elizabeth, widow of the late Earl of Oxford, and daughter and heir of Sir John Howard, Knight.

LETTER LXV.

To Meſtreſſe Margrete Paſton at Norwyche, or hyr Sone John Paſton eſquyer and to eu'ych off them.

I Recomande me to yowe, like it yow to weete y^t^ I am nott ſertayē yitt whether my [1] Lorde and I ſhall come into Ingelonde y^e^ weke byffoor Eſtne or Ellys the weke afftr Eſtne wherffor Moodr I beſeche yow to take noo dyſpleſyr w^t^ me ffor my longe tarynge ffor I moſt doo noon otherwyſe ffor dyſpleſyng off my Lorde. I was noo thynge gladde off thys jornaye iff I myght goodely have choſen neu'theleſſe ſavyng y^t^ ye have cawſe to be dyſpleaſyd w^t^ me ffor the mat', off Kokett I am ellys ryght gladde ffor I hope y^t^ I ame fferre moor in ffavor w^t^ my Lorde then I was to ffoor.

It'm I ſende yow brother John a Lett' herw^t^ whyche was btowte hyddr to Caleys ffrom y^e^ George at Powles wharff I deme it comethe ffrom my brother Wat'.

It'm iff ye entende hyddrewarde itt weer weell doon y^t^ ye hygthed yowe ffor I ſuppoſe y^t^ my Lorde wille take the vywe

This Letter furniſhes us with a curious Anecdote relative to Earl Rivers, who, we may ſuppoſe, had been on a Pilgrimage to Rome; for Caxton tells us, that he was "ſometime "full vertuouſly occupied in goyng of Pilgrimagis:" he likewiſe procured "greet and "large indulgance and grace from our holy Fader the Pope". But it is plain, he had not procured a papal Protection from Robbers.

off

LETTER LXIX.

To Mrs. Margaret Paſton, at Norwich, or her Son John Paſton, Eſquire, and to each of them.

I Recommend me to you, like it you to weet, that I am not certain yet whether my [1] Lord and I ſhall come into England the week before Eaſter, or elſe the week after Eaſter; wherefore, Mother, I beſeech you to take no diſpleaſure with me for my long tarrying, for I muſt do none otherwiſe for (*fear of*) diſpleaſing of my Lord.

I was nothing glad of this journey, if I might goodly have choſen; nevertheleſs ſaving that ye have cauſe to be diſpleaſed with me for the matter of Koketts, I am elſe right glad, for I hope that I am far more in favour with my Lord than I was tofore.

Item, I ſend you, Brother John, a Letter herewith, which was brought hither to Calais, from the George at Paul's Wharf; I deem it cometh from my brother Walter.

Item, if ye intend hitherwards, it were well done that ye hygthed [*hied*] you, for I ſuppoſe that my Lord will take

[1] Sir John Paſton (Pl. IV. N° 10.) attended his Lord to Calais, on Saturday the 9th of March, as appears by another Letter from him, dated the 12th of March, 16 E. IV. and written from Guiſnes, where they then were.—Eaſter Sunday was this year on the 14th of April.

the

off alle hys retynywe heer nowe byffoor hys dep'tyng and I thynke y^t he woolde be bett' contente w^t yowr comyng nowe than an other tyme doo as ye thynke beſt and as ye maye.

It'm wher Maſt^r. [2] Fytzwalt' made me to wryght to yowe to advyſe yow to tarye I remytte thatt to yowr dyſcretion.

As ffor tydyngs heer we her ffrom alle the worlde, ffyrſt the Lorde Ryverſe was at Roome right weell and honorably and other Lords off Ynglonde as y^e Lord [3] Hurmonde and y^e Lord [4] Scrope and at ther dep'tyng xij myle on thyſehalff Roome, the Lorde Ryverſe was robbyd off alle hys Jowelles and Plate whyche was worthe m^le [5] mr'ke or bett' and is retornyd to Rome ffor a Remedy.

It'm y^e Duke of [6] Burgoyne hathe conqueryd Loreyn and Qune [7] Margreet ſhall nott nowe be lykelyhod have it wherffor the frenſhe Kynge cheryſsheth hyr butt eaſelye, but afftr thys conqueſt off Loreyn the Duke toke grete corage to goo uppon the Londe off the Swechys to conquer them butt the berded hym att an onſett place and hathe dyſtruſſyd hym and hathe ſlayne the moſt parte off hys vanwarde and wonne all hys

[2] In the ſame Letter he tells his Brother that Maſter Fitzwalter is very anxious to have him remain in Norfolk, and not come to Calais, as he and his Family are coming to their houſe at Attleborough to reſide; and that from Maſter Fitzwalter's diſcourſe he found that it would be long "er he ſcholde be wery off yowr expencs off horſe or "man."

[3] Quære, Lord Ormond?

[4] John, Lord Scroop, of Bolton,

[5] Allowing for the difference of weight, and value of money between this and the preſent time, he loſt to the amount of nearly 4000l.

Ordynaunce

the view of all his Retinue here, now before his departing; and I think that he would be better content with your coming now, than another time; do as ye think beſt, and as ye may.

Item, where *(as)* Maſter [2] Fytzwalter made me to write to you to adviſe you to tarry, I remit that to your diſcretion.

As for tidings here, we hear from all the world, firſt, the Lord Rivers was at Rome right well and honourably, and other Lords of England, as the Lord [3] Hurmonde, the Lord [4] Scrope, and at their departing twelve miles on this half Rome, the Lord Rivers was robbed of all his Jewels and Plate, which was worth 1000 [5] Marks *(666l. 13s. 4d.)* or better, and is returned to Rome for a Remedy.

Item, the Duke of [6] Burgundy hath conquered Lorrain, and Queen [7] Margaret ſhall not now by likelihood have it; wherefore the French King cheriſheth her but *eaſily [*ſlightly, little*]; but after this conqueſt of Lorrain, the Duke took great courage to go upon the Land of the Swiſs to conquer them, but they berded [*confronted*] him at an unſet [*unlooked for*] place, and hath diſtreſſed [*haraſſed*] him, and hath ſlain the moſt part of his

[6] During the preceding Autumn, the Duke of Burgundy having ſubdued the whole Duchy of Lorrain, he now attacked the Swiſs, and took a town called Granſon, juſt as a body of troops were arriving to its relief; theſe he went to meet, as they came down the narrow paſſes of the Mountains; when his Army, being ſeized with a panick, fled, and left his baggage to be plundered by the Enemy.

Within a ſhort time after this he beſieged Morat, a ſmall town near Bern, when a battle enſued, in which he was totally routed.

[7] This Queen had been lately delivered from her impriſonment in the Tower, to the French King, on his engaging to pay 50,000 Crowns for her ranſom.

* So in Letter V. p. 17. I have but eaſy ſhiffe of money, that is, *little ſtore* of money.

Ordynaunce and Artylrye and mor ovyr alle ſtuffe thatt he hade in hys oſt w^t hym exceppte men and horſe y^t ffledde nott but they roode y^t nyght xx myle and ſo the Ryche [8] Saletts Heulmetts Garters [9] Nowchys Gelt and alle is goone w^t Tents Pavylons and alle and ſoo men deme hys pryde is abatyd. Men tolde hym that they weer ffrowarde Karlys butte he wolde nott beleve it and yitt men ſeye y^t he woll to them ageyn Gode ſpede them bothe.

It'm S^r. John Mydelton toke leve off y^e Duke to ſporte hym but he is ſett in pryſon att Bruſſellys.

I praye yowe ſende me ſom worde iff ye thynke likly y^t I may entr Caſt' when I woll by the next Meſſeng^r.

Wretyn at Caleys in reſonable helthe, off bodye and ſowle I thanke Good the xxj daye off Marche A°. E. iiij^ti. xvj°.

J. P. K.

12 by 8 ½.

Paper Mark,
The Letter G, and a Croſs.
Pl. XII. N° 18.

[8] Light Head pieces.

L C T.

Vanward [*Vaward*], and won all his Ordnance and Artillery, and moreover all Stuff that he had in his Hoſt; except men and horſe that fled not, but they rode that night twenty miles; and ſo the rich [a] Salets, Helmets, Garters, [b] Nowches Gelt [*gold*], and all is gone, with Tents, Pavilions, and all, and ſo men deem his pride is abated [*humbled*]; men told him, that they were froward Carles, but he would not believe it, and yet men ſay, that he will to them again, God ſpeed them both.

Item, Sir John Myddleton took leave of the Duke to ſport him, but he is ſet in priſon at Bruſſels.

I pray you ſend me ſome word, if ye think likely, that I may enter Caiſter when I will, by the next Meſſenger.

Written at Calais, in reaſonable health of body and ſoul, I thank God, the 21ſt day of March, in the ſixteenth year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Calais,
Thurſday, 21ſt of March,
1475, 16 E. IV.

[b] Emboſſed Ornaments—Chains—Buckles, &c.

LETTER LXX.

To John Paſton Eſquyer at Norwyche in haſt:

I Recomaunde me to yow letyng yow weete y^t yiſt'daye beganne the grete Cowncell to whyche alle the Aſtats off y^e londe ſhall com to butt if it be ffor gret and reaſonable excuſis and I ſuppoſe y^e cheffe cawſe off thys Aſſemble is to comon what is beſt to doo now uppon y^e greet change by the dethe off y^e Duke of Burgoyne and ffor y^e kepyng off Caleys and the Marchys and ffor the p'ſervacōn off y^e Amyteys taken late as weell w^t Fraunce as now w^t the Membrys off Flaundres wher to I dowt nott y^r ſhall be in all haſt bothe y^e Duks off Clarance and Glowceſtre wheroff I wolde y^t my brother E wyſt.

It'm I ffeele butt litell effecte in the labor off W. Alyngton, neu'theleſſe I deme it is nott for yow ſhe ſhall not paſſe C C Mr'k as fferr as I can undreſtand ap'te. It'm I will nott fforget yow otherwyſe.

Itt is ſo y^t thys daye I heer grett liklyhood y^t my Lorde Haſtyngs ſhall haſtely goo to Caleys w^t greet Company iff I thynke it be for yow to be on I ſhall nott fforgeet yow.

It'm thys daye the Mat' by twyen Meſtreſſe Anne Haulte and

LETTER LXX.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, at Norwich, in haſte.

I Recommend me to you, letting you weet, that yeſterday began the great Council, to which all the Eſtates of the Land ſhall come to, but if [*unleſs*] it be for great and reaſonable excuſes; and I ſuppoſe the chief cauſe of this Aſſembly is, to commune what is beſt to do, now upon the great change by the Death of the Duke of Burgundy, and for the keeping of Calais, and the Marches, and for the preſervation of the Amities taken lately, as well with France as now with the Members of Flanders; whereto I doubt not there ſhall be in all haſte both the Dukes of Clarence, and Glouceſter, whereof I would that my brother Edmund wiſt [*knew*].

Item, I feel but little effect in the labour of W. Alyngton, nevertheleſs I deem it is not for you, ſhe ſhall not paſs 200 Marks, as far as I can underſtand apart.

Item, I will not forget you otherwiſe.

Item, it is ſo that this day I hear great likelihood, that my Lord Haſtyngs ſhall haſtily go to Calais with great Company; if I think it be for you [*for your advantage*] to be one, I ſhall not forget you.

Item, this day the matter between Mrs. Anne Haulte and me hath

and me hathe been ſoor broken bothe to y^e [1] Cardinall to my Lorde [2] Chamb'leyn and to my ſelffe and I am in goode hope when I heer and knowe moor I ſhall ſende yow worde.

It ſemythe y^t the [3] worlde is alle qwaveryng it will reboyle ſomwher ſo y^t I deme yonge men ſhall be cheryſshyd take yowr hert to yow. I ffeer y^t I can nott be excuſyd but y^t I ſhall ffforthe w^t my Lorde Haſtyngs ovyr y^e See butt I ſhall ſende yow worde in haſt and iff I goo I hope nott to tary longe.

It' to my Brother Edmōd. I am like to ſpeke to Meſtreſſe Dyxon in haſt and ſom deme y^t y^r ſhall be condyſſendyd y^t iff E. P. come to London y^t hys coſts ſhall be payed ffor.

I ſhall haſtely ſende yow worde off moor thyngs.

Wretyn at London y^e xiiij day off Feu'er A°. E. iiij^ti xvj. y^e ffryday a for ffaſtyngong.

John Paſton, K.

12 by 5 ¾.

The Politicians of theſe times, we here ſee, looked upon the Death of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy, as an Event of great importance to all Europe.

He was diſmounted from his horſe, and ſlain in a battle fought on the 5th of January, 1476, before Nancy, the capital City of Lorrain, between his Forces and thoſe of Renate, Duke of Lorrain.

He was fond of ſtate and magnificence, and rather an ambitious than a prudent Prince. He reigned upwards of nine years, and died at about the age of forty five.

hath been ſoor [*in a ſure manner*] broken both to the [1] Cardinal, to my Lord [2] Chamberlain, and to myſelf, and I am in good hope; when I hear and know more, I ſhall ſend you word.

It ſeemeth that the [3] World is all quavering, it will reboil ſomewhere, ſo that I deem young men ſhall be cheriſhed, take your heart to you [*that is, be of good courage*]; I fear that I cannot be excuſed, but that I ſhall forth with my Lord Haſtings over the Sea, but I ſhall ſend you word in haſte, and if I go, I hope not to tarry long.

Item, to my brother Edmund.

I am like to ſpeak with Miſtreſs Dixon in haſte, and ſome deem that there ſhall be condeſcended, that if E. P. [*Edmund Paſton*] come to London that his coſts ſhall be paid for.

I ſhall haſtily ſend you word of more things.

Written at London, the 14th day of February, in the 16th year of Edward IV. the Friday afore Faſtingong [*Faſting-going*, i. e. *Lent.*]

[4] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Friday, 14th of February,
1476, 16 E. IV.

[1] Thomas Bourchier, Archbiſhop of Canterbury, was raiſed to the dignity of a Cardinal, by the Pope in 1464.

[2] William, Lord Haſtyngs. Though this important buſineſs between Sir John Paſton and Mrs. Anne Hault, has been ſo often mentioned, it has never been ſo clearly ſtated as to be exactly aſcertained.

[3] This part of the Letter ſeems to hint not only at foreign Commotions, but at internal diſſenſions at home.

[4] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LETTER LXI.

To my wurſchypfull Coſyne John [1] Paſton Be this bill delyu'yd, &c.

COSYN I recomande me un to yowe Thankyng yowe hertely for the grette chere that ye made me and all my Folkys the laſt tyme y[t] I was at Norwych. And ye p'myſyd me y[t] ye wold neu' breke the mat' to [2] M'grery unto ſuche tyme as ye and I were at a point. But ye hafe made hyr ſuche Advokett for yowe y[t] I may neu' hafe Reſt nyght ner Day for callyng and cryeng uppon to brynge the ſaide mat' to effecte, &c.

And Coſyn uppon fryday is Sent [3] Volentynes Day and eu'y Brydde cheſyth hym a make and yf it lyke yowe to com' on' thurſday at nyght and ſo p'vey yowe y[t] ye may abyde y[r] tyll monday I truſty to God y[t] ye ſchall ſo ſpeke to myn huſband and I ſchall prey y[t] we ſchall bryng the mat' to a concluſyon, &c.

For Coſyn it is but a ſympill oke y[t] cut down at the firſt ſtroke

This is a Letter from Lady Brews, the Mother of the Gentlewoman, to whom John Paſton was deſirous of paying his Addreſſes, and whom he married. We here ſee that the cuſtom of chooſing Valentines was a ſport practiſed in the houſes of the gentry at this time.

ffor

LETTER LXXI.

To my worſhipful Couſin John [1] Paſton, Be this Bill delivered, &c.

COUSIN, I recommend me unto you, Thanking you heartily for the great cheer ye made me, and all my Folks, the laſt time that I was at Norwich; and ye promiſed me, that ye would never break the matter to [2] Margery unto ſuch time, as ye and I were at a point. But ye have made her ſuch (*an*) Advocate for you, that I may never have reſt night nor day, for calling and crying upon to bring the ſaid matter to effect, &c.

And Couſin, upon Friday is Saint [3] Valentine's day, and every Bird chuſeth him a Make [*Mate*]; and if it like you to come on Thurſday at night, and ſo purvey you, that ye may abide there till Monday, I truſt to God, that ye ſhall ſo ſpeak to mine huſband; and I ſhall pray, that we ſhall bring the matter to a concluſion, &c.

For, Couſin, "it is but a ſimple Oak,
"That's cut down at the firſt ſtroke,"

[1] John Paſton was the next Brother to Sir John Paſton, Knight, and his Heir in 1479. He was High Sheriff of Norfolk, &c. in 1485, created a Knight Banneret in 1487, and died in 1503.

[2] Margery, Daughter of Sir Thomas and Elizabeth Brews, of Stinton Hall, in Salle.

[3] 14th of February.—Brydde, Bird.—Make, Match or Mate.

ffor ye will be reſonabill I truſt to God whech hafe yowe eu' in hys m'cyfull kepyng, &c.

[4] Be yowr Coſyn Dame [5] Elizabeth Brews,

oy'wes ſchall be called be Godds g'ce.

[11] ½ by 3 ½.

[4] Theſe two laſt lines ſeem intended to rhyme.

LETTER LXXJ.

Unto my Ryght welebelovyd Voluntyn John Paſton Squyer be y[is] bill delyu'ed, &c.

RYGHT reu'ent and wurſchypfull and my ryght welebeloved Voluntyne I recomande me unto yowe ffull hertely deſyring to her' of yowr welefare whech I beſeche almyghty God long for to p'ſ've un to hys pleſur and yowr herts deſyr' And yf it pleaſe yowe to her' of my welefar I am not in good heele of body nor of herte nor ſchall be tyll I her ffrom yowe ffor y[t] wottys no creatur' what peyn y[t] I endur' and for to be deede I dar' it not dyſcur.' And my Lady my mod' hath labored y[e] mat' to my ffadur full delygently but ſche can no mor gete yen ye knowe of for y[e] whech God knowyth I am full ſory

But

for ye will be reaſonable I truſt to God, which have you ever in his merciful keeping, &c.

[4] By your Couſin Dame [5] ELIZABETH BREWS,

otherwiſe ſhall be called by God's Grace.

Between the 8th and 14th of February,
1476-7, 16 E. IV.

[5] Elizabeth Brews, was a Daughter of Sir Giles, and Siſter and heir of Sir Gilbert Debenham; ſhe ſeems very deſirous of the match, and wiſhes to call him not only her Couſin but Son, as ſhe plainly intimates in her Subſcription to this Letter. Pl. v. N° 26.

LETTER LXXII.

Unto my right well beloved Valentine, John Paſton, Eſquire, be this Bill delivered, &c.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful, and my right well beloved Valentine, I recommend me unto you, full heartily deſiring to hear of your welfare, which I beſeech Almighty God long for to preſerve unto his pleaſure, and your heart's deſire.

And if it pleaſe you to hear of my welfare, I am not in good heele [*health*] of body, nor of heart, nor ſhall be till I hear from you;

For there wottys [*knows*] no creature what pain that I endure,
And for to be dead [*for my life*], I dare it not dyſcur' [*diſcover*].

And my Lady my Mother hath laboured the matter to my father full diligently, but ſhe can no more get than ye know of, for the which God knoweth I am full ſorry. But if that ye

But yf that ye loffe me as I tryſte verely that ye do ye will not leffe me yᵗfor, for if yᵗ ye hade not halfe yᵉ lyvelode yᵗ ye hafe for to do yᵉ gretteſt labur yᵗ any woma' on lyve myght I wold not forſake yowe. And yf ye cōmande me to kepe me true whereu' I go, I wyſe I will do all my myght yowe to love and neu' no mo. And yf my freends ſay yᵗ I do amys yei ſchal not me let ſo for to do myn' herte me bydds eu' mor' to love yowe truly ou' all erthely thing and yf yei be neu' ſo wroth I tryſt it ſchall be bett' in tyme cōmyng.

No mor' to yowe at this tyme but the Holy Trinite hafe yowe in kepyng And I beſech yowe yᵗ this bill be not ſeyn of non' erthely creatur ſafe only yoʳ Selffe, &c. And thys lett' was indyte at Topcroft wᵗ full hevy herte, &c.

By your own,

Margerȳ Brews.

12 by 4 ½.

We have in this letter the genuine dictates of the heart of a young Lady deeply in love, and fearing that her father will not give her ſuch a fortune on her marriage, as the Gentleman, who paid his addreſſes to her, expected. She therefore fears the continuance of his affection, but aſſures him of hers.

love me, as I truſt verily that ye do, ye will not leave me therefore; for if that ye had not half the livelihood that ye have, for to do the greateſt labour that any woman alive might, I would not forſake you.

And if ye command me to keep me true wherever I go,
I wis I will do all my might you to love, and never no mo.
And if my friends ſay, that I do amiſs,
They ſhall not me let ſo for to do,
Mine heart me bids evermore to love you,
Truly over all earthly thing,
And if they be never ſo wrath,
I truſt it ſhall be better in time coming.

No more to you at this time, but the Holy Trinity have you in keeping; and I beſeech you that this bill be not ſeen of none earthly Creature ſave only yourſelf, &c.

And this Letter was endited at Topcroft, with full heavy heart, &c.

By your own,

MARGERY BREWS.

Topcroft,
February, 1476-7,
16 E. IV.

Some parts of the letter ſeem intended for verſe, as the lines, though unequal, rhyme. I have written them, in the modernized letter ſo that the rhymes end the lines, though perhaps I am wrong.

The lady appears conſcious that ſhe has opened her heart in the letter, and with a becoming modeſty conjures J. Paſton, that it may "be ſeyn of non erthely Creatur ſafe only himſelf." Pl. VI. N° 27.

LET-

LETTER LXXIII.

To my Ryght Welebelovyd Coſyn John Paſton Swyer be this Lett' delyu'yd, &c.

RYGHT wurſchypfull and welebelovyd Volentyne in my moſte umble wyſe I recōmande me un to yowe, &c. and hertely I thanke yowe for y^e^ Lettur whech that ye ſende me be John Bekarton wherby I undyrſtonde and knowe y^t^ ye be purpoſyd to com' to Topcroft in ſchorte tyme and w^t^owte any erand or mat' but only to hafe a concluſyon' of y^e^ mat' betwyx my fad^r^ and yowe I wolde be moſt glad of any creatur on lyve ſo yat the mat' myght growe to effect And ther as ye ſay and ye com' and fynde y^e^ mat' no mor' towards you yen ye dyd afortyme ye wold no mor' put my fad^r^ and my Lady my mod^r^ to no coſt ner beſeneſſe for y^t^ cauſe a good wyle aftur weche cauſyth myn' herte to be full hevy and yf y^t^ ye com' and the mater take to non' effecte yeñ ſchuld I be meche mor ſory and full of hevyneſſe.

And as for my ſelfe I hafe don' and undyrſtond in the mat' y^t^ I can or may as good knowyth And I let yowe pleynly undyr-

J. Paſton ſeems by this Letter to have anſwered the laſt, but not to her ſatisfaction, reſpecting his being content to take her with the fortune her father propoſed to give on her marriage. She acknowledges the pleaſure it would give her to find that he would marry her with the fortune her father had fixed, and with great ſenſibility requeſts him, if he cannot acquieſce, not to come to Topcroft, but to let matters remain as they were.

LETTER LXXIII.

To my Right Well beloved Couſin John Paſton, Eſquire, be this Letter delivered, &c.

RIGHT worſhipful and well beloved Valentine, in my moſt humble wiſe, I recommend me unto you, &c. And heartily I thank you for the Letter, which that ye ſend me by John Beckerton, whereby I underſtand and know, that ye be purpoſed to come to Topcroft in ſhort time, and without any errand or matter, but only to have a concluſion of the matter betwixt my father and you; I would be moſt glad of any Creature alive, ſo that the matter might grow to effect. And thereas [*whereas*] ye ſay, and [*if*] ye come and find the matter no more towards you than ye did aforetime, ye would no more put my Father and my Lady my Mother to no coſt nor buſineſs, for that cauſe a good while after, which cauſeth my heart to be full heavy; and if that ye come, and the matter take to none effect, then ſhould I be much more ſorry, and full of heavineſs.

And as for myſelf I have done, and underſtand in the matter that I can or may, as God knoweth; and I let you plainly

The Letter, at the ſame time that it acknowledges her regard for J. Paſton, ſhews that ſhe had a proper attention to her own conſequence, and her father's determination. Pl. VI. N° 27. Pl. XIV. N° 25.

under-

ſtond y^{t} my fad^{r} wyll no mor money parte w^{t}. all in that behalfe but an C^{li} and 1 marke whech is ryght far fro the Acomplyſhment of yowr deſyre.

Wherfore yf y^{t} ye cowde be content w^{t} y^{t} good and my por p'ſone. I wold be y^{e} meryeſt mayden on grounde And yf ye thynke not yowr ſelffe ſo ſatysfyed or y^{t} ye myght hafe mech mor good as I hafe undyrſtonde be yowe afor good trewe and lovyng volentyne y^{t} ye take no ſuch labur uppon yowe as to com' mor' for y^{t} mat'. But let is paſſe and neu' mor' to be ſpokyn of as I may be yowr trewe lou' and bedewoma' duryng my lyfe.

No more un to yowe at thys tyme but Almyghty J'h's p'ſ've yowe bothe body and ſowle, &c.

Be yo^{r}. Voluntyne,

Margery Brews.

11 ¾ by 5 ½.

LETTER LXXII.

Un to my Ryght Wurſchypfull Maiſt' John Paſton Swhyer be this bill deliu'ed, &c.

RYGHT Wurſchypfull S^{r}. I recomande me un to yowe, lettyng yowe knowe, as for the Yonge Gentylwoma' ſche owyth yowe hyr good herte and love as I knowe be y^{e} comynicacion y^{t} I hafe hade w^{t} hyr for y^{e} ſame.

And

underſtand, that my father will no more money part withal in that behalf, but an 100*l.* and 50 marks (33*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) which is right far from the accompliſhment of your deſire.

Wherefore, if that ye could be content with that Good, and my poor Perſon, I would be the merrieſt maiden on ground; and if ye think not yourſelf ſo ſatisfied, or that ye might have much more Good, as I have underſtood by you afore; good, true, and loving Valentine, that ye take no ſuch labour upon you, as to come more for that matter, But let (*what*) is, paſs, and never more to be ſpoken of, as I may be your true Lover and Beadwoman during my life.

No more unto you at this time, but Almighty Jeſu preſerve you both body and ſoul, &c.

By your Valentine,

MARGERY BREWS.

Topcroft, 1476-7.

LETTER LXXIV.

Unto my right worſhipful Maſter, John Paſton, Eſquire, be this bill delivered, &c.

RIGHT worſhipful Sir, I recommend me unto you, letting you know, as for the young Gentlewoman, ſhe oweth you her good heart and love; as I know by the communication that I have had with her for the ſame.

And Sr. ye knowe what my Maiſtr and my Lady hath p'fered wt hyr CC merke. And I dar ſey yt hyr chambr and areyment ſchall be worthe C merk and I harde my Lady ſey yt and the caſe required both ye and ſche ſchuld hafe yowr borde wt my Lady iij yer aftr.

And I undrſtand by my Lady yt ſche wold yt ye ſchuld labur ye mat̄ to my Maiſtr for it ſchuld be the bettr.

And I harde my Lady ſey yt it was a febill oke yt was kit down at the firſt ſtroke.

And ye be beholdyng un to my Lady for hyr good wurde for ſche hath neu' preyſyd yowe to mech.*

Sr. lyke as I p'myſyd yowe I am yowr mā and my good will ye ſchall hafe in worde and dede, &c.

And Jhs hafe yowe in hys m'cyfull kepyng, &c.

Be yor man,

Thomas Kela.

11 ¾ by 3 ¼.

This Letter ſeems written by a common Friend of both the parties, who appears ſolicitous for the marriage taking effect. Pl. VI. N° 28.

He informs J. Paſton that in addition to the fortune intended to be given by Sir Thomas Brews, the Furniture of her Chamber and her Apparel ſhould amount to the ſum of 100 marks, or 66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*

And he hints, as from Lady Brews, that they ſhould be entertained at her Table for three years after their marriage.

And Sir, ye know what my Maſter and my Lady hath profferred with her 200 Marks (133*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) and I dare ſay, that her Chamber and Arayment [*Apparel*] ſhall be worth 100 Marks (66*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.*) And I heard my Lady ſay, that and [*if*] the caſe required, both ye and ſhe ſhould have your board with my Lady three years after.

And I underſtand by my Lady, that ſhe would that ye ſhould labour the matter to my Maſter, for it ſhould be the better.

And I heard my Lady ſay,

"That it was a feeble Oak,
"That was cut down at the firſt ſtroke."

And ye be beholden unto my Lady for her good word, for ſhe hath never praiſed you too much.*

Sir, like as I promiſed you, I am your man, and my good will ye ſhall have in word and deed, &c.

And Jeſu have you in his merciful keeping, &c.

By your man,

THOMAS KELA.

February, 1476-7.
16 E. IV.

At the bottom of the Original Letter is written by J. Paſton——"brought by Will'm "Chele."

* That is, deſervedly praiſed you; for though ſhe hath praiſed you much, her praiſe is not above your merit.

LETTER LXXV.

To my Ryght worchepfull Modyr Margaret Paſton.

RYGHT worſchepfull Modyr aftyr all dwtes of recōmendacyon in as humble wyſe as I can I beſeche yow of yo^{r} dayly blyſſȳg Modyr pleaſe yt yow to wett that the cauſe that Dam' Elizabeth Brews deſyreth to mete w^{t} yow at Norwyche and not at Langley as I apoyntyd w^{t} yow at my laſt beīg at Mawtby is by my meanys, for my brodyr Thomas Jermyn whyche knowyth nought of the mate telyth me that the cauſey or ye can com'e to Bokenh'm fery is ſo over flowyn that ther is no man that may on ethe paſſe it though he be ryght well horſyd, whyche is no mete wey for yow to paſſe over God defend it, but all thyngs rekynyd it ſhalbe leſſe coſt to yow to be at Norwyche as for a day or tweyn and paſſe not then to mete at Langly wher every thyng is dere and your horſe may be ſent hom' ayen the ſame wednyſday.

Modyr I beſeche yow for dyvers cauſys that my Syſt' Anne may come w^{t} yow to Norwyche, Modyr the mater is in a reſonable good wey and I truſt w^{t} Gods mercy and w^{t} yo^{r} good help that it ſhall take effect bettyr to myn avūtage then I

We find by this Letter that J. Paſton (Pl. IV. N° 12.) was as deſirous of having all obſtacles to the match removed, as the Lady could be, and now writes from the houſe where ſhe was, and to which I ſuppoſe he went on the receipt of her laſt letter.

told

LETTER LXXV.

To my right worſhipful Mother Margaret Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful Mother, after all duties of recommendation, in as humble wiſe as I can, I beſeech you of your daily bleſſing. Mother, pleaſe it you to weet, that the cauſe that Dame Elizabeth Brews deſireth to meet with you at Norwich, and not at Langley, as I appointed with you at my laſt being at Mawtby, is my by means, for my brother Thomas Jermyn, which knoweth nought of the mate [*match*], telleth me, that the Cauſey ere ye can come to Bokenham Ferry is ſo overflown that there is no man that may an ethe [*ſcarcely*] paſs it, though he be right well horſed; which is no meet way for you to paſs over, God defend [*forbid*] it. But all things reckoned, it ſhall be leſs coſt to you to be at Norwich, as for a day or tweyn and paſs not, than to meet at Langley, where every thing is dear; and your horſe may be ſent home again the ſame Wedneſday.

Mother, I beſeech you for diverſe cauſes, that my Siſter Anne may come with you to Norwich; Mother, the matter is in a reaſonable good way, and I truſt with God's mercy, and with your good help, that it ſhall take effect better to mine ad-

He takes great pains to explain the reaſon for the meeting at Norwich to have been fixed by his deſire, fearing his Mother might have been diſpleaſed with any alteration in the original plan.

John Cooke was Mayor of Norwich in 1484.

vantage

told yow of at Mawtby for I trow ther is not a kynder woman leveīg then I ſhall have to my Modyr in lawe if the mater take nor yet a kynder fadyr in lawe then I ſhall have though he be hard to me as yett, all the cyrcumſtancys of the mater whyche I truſt to tell yow at yo^{r} comȳg to Norwyche cowd not be wretyn in iij levys of paper and ye know my lewd hed well I nough I may not wryght longe wherffor I ffery over all thyngs tyll I may awayte on yow my ſelff I ſhall do tonñe in to yo^{r} place a doſeyn ale and bred acordȳg ayenſt wednyſday if Syme myght be forborn it wer well don' that he war at Norwyche on wednyſday in the mornȳg at markett.

Dam' Elizabeth Brewſe ſhall lye at Jon Cookys if it myght pleaſe yow I wold be glad that ſhe myght dyne in yo^{r} howſe on thurſday for ther ſhold ye have moſt ſecret talkyng and Modyr at the reu'ence of God beware that ye be ſo p'veyd for that ye take no cold by the wey towards Norwyche for it is the moſt p'aylous marche that ever was ſeyn by eny manys dayes that now lyveth and I prey to Jhu p'ſerve yow and yours.

Wretyn at Topcroft the viij day of Marche.

Yo^{r} Sone and humbyll Seru'nt,

J. P.

11 ¾ by 4 ¼.

LET.

vantage than I told you of at Mawtby; for I trow [*believe*] there is not a kinder woman living than I ſhall have to my Mother in law, if the matter take, nor yet a kinder Father in law than I ſhall have, though he be hard to me as yet.

All the circumſtances of the matter, which I truſt to tell you at your coming to Norwich, could not be written in three leaves of paper, and ye know my lewd [*poor*] head well enough, I may not write long, wherefore I fery over [*defer*] all things till I may await on you myſelf. I ſhall do tonnen [*cauſe to be tunned*] into your place a dozen Ale, and Bread according, againſt Wedneſday. If Sym might be forborn [*ſpared*] it were well done, that he were at Norwich on Wedneſday in the morning at market. Dame Elizabeth Brews ſhall lie at John Cook's; if it might pleaſe you, I would be glad that ſhe might dine in your houſe on Thurſday, for there ſhould you have moſt ſecret talking.

And Mother, at the reverence of God; beware that ye be ſo purveyed for, that ye take no cold by the way towards Norwich, for it is the moſt perilous March that ever was ſeen by any man's days that now liveth; and I pray to Jeſu preſerve you and yours.

Written at Topcroft the 8th day of March.

Your Son and humble Servant,

JOHN PASTON.

Topcroft,
Saturday, 8th of March,
1476-7, 17 E. IV.

LET-

LETTER LXXIJ.

To my Ryght Wurſchypfull Coſyn Sr. Jhon Paſton knyght be this Lett' delyu'ed, &c.

RYGHT wurſchypfull and my hertely welebelovyd Coſyn I recōmande me unto yowe deſyring to her' of yowr welefar whech I pray God may be as cōtynuall good as I wolde hafe myn own and Coſyn the cauſe of my wryting un to yow at thys tyme is I fele wele be my Coſyn John yowr brodr yt ye hafe undyrſtondyng of a mat' whech is in comynicacyon tochyng a maryage wt Godds g'ce to be concluded betwyx my ſaide Coſyn yowr brodr and my doghtr M'gery wheche is far cōmonyd and not yyt cōcluded ner noght ſchall ner may be tyll I hafe anſwer from yowe agayn of yowr good will and aſent to the ſeid mater and alſo of the obligacyon weche yt I ſende yowe herewith for Coſyn I wold be ſory to ſe owther my Coſyn yowr brodr or my Doghtr dryvyn to leve ſo meane a lyff as yei ſchuld do yf the vjxx li. ſchuld be payde of ther maryage money.

And Coſyn I hafe takyn my ſelfe ſo ner' in levyng of this vjxx li. yt wher as I hade layde upp an C. li. for the mary-

This Letter, I ſuppoſe, accompanied one from J. Paſton, in which the exact terms were ſpecified, to his brother Sir John. Sir Thomas Brews ſeemed to expect that Sir John Paſton would likewiſe do ſomething for his brother on this occaſion.

age

LETTER LXXVI.

To my right worſhipful Couſin Sir John Paſton, Knight, be this Letter delivered, &c.

RIGHT worſhipful, and my heartily well beloved Couſin, I recommend me unto you, deſiring to hear of your welfare, which I pray God may be as continually good as I would have mine own; and Couſin, the cauſe of my writing unto you, at this time, is I feel [*perceive*] well by my Couſin John Paſton your Brother, that ye have underſtanding of a matter, which is in communication touching a Marriage, with God's Grace, to be concluded betwixt my ſaid Couſin your Brother, and my Daughter Margery, which is far communed, and not yet concluded, nor neither ſhall nor may be, till I have anſwer from you again of your good will and aſſent to the ſaid matter; and alſo of the obligation which that I ſend you herewith; for Couſin I would be ſorry to ſee either my Couſin your brother, or my Daughter, driven to live ſo mean a life as they ſhould do, if the ſix ſcore pounds ſhould be paid *(out)* of their marriage money; and Couſin, I have taken myſelf ſo near in leaving of [*parting with*] this ſaid ſix ſcore pounds, that whereas I had laid up an 100l. for the marriage of a

Sir Thomas Brewſe lived at Stinton-hall, in the pariſh of Salle, and on the death of Robert Clifton, &c. came into poſſeſſion of an Eſtate in Topcroft; he died in 1482. Pl. v. N° 25.

age of a yong' dogh't' of myn I hafe nowe lent y^e^ ſaide C li. and xx li. ou' that to my Coſyn yowr brod' to be paide ageyn be ſuche eſy days as y^e^ obligacyon weche I ſende yowe herwyth ſpecyfyes and Coſyn I wer' ryght lothe to be ſtowe ſo mech uppon on' dogh't' y^t^ the oy^r^ her Suſters ſchuld far the wars wherfor Coſyn yf ye wyll y^t^ thys mat' ſchall take effect undyr ſuche forme as my Coſyn yowr brod' hath wretyn unto yowe I pray yowe put y^r^to yowr good wylle and ſū of yowr coſte as I hafe done of myn mor' largely yen eu' I purpoſe to do to any tweyn of hyr Suſters as God knowyth myn Entent whom I beſech to ſend yowe yowr leveſt herts deſyr.

Wretyn at Topcroft the viij day of March, &c.

Be yo^r^ Coſyn,

Thomas Brews, Knight.

11 ¾ by 7 ¼.

LETTER LXVIJ.

To Maſt' Sir John Paſton be ths Lett' delyverid in Calis.

HONWRE and Joye be to yow my ryght gode Maſt' and moſt aſſured brother letyng yow know that al yowre welwillers and ſ'vaunts in theſe p'tyes that I know fare well

younger Daughter of mine, I have now lent the ſaid 100*l.* and 20*l.* over that, to my Couſin your Brother, to be paid again by ſuch eaſy days as the obligation, which I ſend you herewith, ſpecifies.

And Couſin, I were right loath to beſtow ſo much upon one daughter, that the other her Siſters ſhould fare the worſe; wherefore, Couſin, if ye will that this matter ſhall take effect under ſuch form as my Couſin your brother hath written unto you, I pray you put thereto your good will, and ſome of your Coſt, as I have done of mine more largely than ever I purpoſe to do to any two of her Siſters, as God knoweth mine intent, whom I beſeech to ſend you your leveſt [*deareſt*] heart's deſire.

Written at Topcroft, the 8th day of March, &c.

By your Couſin,

THOMAS BREWS, Knight.

Topcroft,
Saturday, 8th of March,
1476, 17 E. IV.

LETTER LXXVII.

To Maſter Sir John Paſton, be this Letter delivered in Calais.

HONOUR and Joy be to you, my right good Maſter, and moſt aſſured Brother, letting you know that all your Wellwillers and Servants, in theſe parts, that I know, fare well,

and bett' wold if they mowht here of yowre wellbeyng and forthw^{t} ſum of yowre frenche and borgoyne tidyngs ffor we in theſe p'tyes be in grete drede leſt the french Kyng w^{t} ſum aſſaults ſhuld in eny wiſe diſtourbe yow of yo^{r}. ſoft ſote and ſewre ſlepys but as yet we no thyng can here that he ſo diſpoſeth hȳ.

Mary we have herd ſey that the Frowys of Broggys w^{t} there hye cappes have gyven ſum of yow grete clappys and that the fete of her armys doȳg is ſuch that they ſmyte al at the mowthe and at the grete ende of the thyeh but in faith we care not for yow for we know well that ye be gode ynowh at defence but we here ſey that they be of ſuch corage that they gyve yow moo ſtrokys than ye do to thē and that they ſtrike ſorer than ye alſo but I thynk that the engliſh Ladyes and Jentylwomē and the pore alſo can do as well as they and lyſt not to lerne of them no thyng and therefor we drede leſt ther hye corages ſhuld meve them to make yow warre alſo; but God defend for by my trowth than have ye much to do for ht were bett' and more eſe for to labor iij or fowre dayes wt mattokks and pykeiſys to over turne yo^{r} ſande hills as we here ſaye ye do ryht wurſhipfully than only one day to endure theyre fers encountrys ſo as ye myht owther gete or ſave yo^{r} wurſhippys by, and loke that ye truſt to have no

Under the Direction of this Letter, and in a hand of the time (I believe in Sir John Paſton's hand) is written "Jon Pympe," "xvj die Mar' A°. E. 4. 17." (16th day of March, 17 E. IV.) being the date when the Letter was received.

I have given this Letter merely as a ſpecimen of the humour of the time, which, though indelicate, may I fear be matched by many a modern correſpondence.

Some Amour ſeems to be couched under the Simile of the Sparrow, the Barley, and the Door, &c.

reſcow

and better would, if they might hear of your well being, and forthwith ſome of your French and Burgundy tidings; for we in theſe parts be in great dread leſt the French King with ſome aſſaults, ſhould in any wiſe diſturb you of your ſoft, ſote [*ſweet*], and ſure ſleeps, but as yet we nothing can hear that he ſo diſpoſeth him.

Marry we have heard ſay, that the Frows [*Women*] of Bruges, with their high Caps, have given ſome of you great claps; and that the feat of their arms doing is ſuch, that they ſmite all at the mouth, but in faith we care not for you, for we know well that ye be good enough at defence; but we hear ſay, that they be of ſuch courage, that they give you more ſtrokes than ye do them, and that they ſtrike ſurer than ye alſo; but I think that the Engliſh Ladies, and Gentlewomen, and the Poor alſo, can do as well as they, and liſt [*deſire*] not to learn of them nothing; and therefore we dread leſt their high courages ſhould move them to make you war alſo; but God defend, for by my truth then have ye much to do; for it were better and more eaſe for to labour three or four days with Mattocks and Pickaxes to overturn your Sand hills, as we hear ſay ye do right worſhipfully, than only one day to endure their fierce encounters; ſo as ye might either get or ſave your worſhips by; and look that ye truſt to

The latter part of this epiſtle ſhews us what were the qualities of a Horſe at that time moſt eſteemed.

The Writer was a Perſon of ſome conſideration, as he was to have had Sir J. Paſton's Lodgings in London, and was Couſin to Sir J. Scot, Deputy Governor of Calais. Pl. VI. N° 29.

have

reſcow of us for ſo God me helpe we have y nowh to do in theſe p'tyes w^t the ſame werrs. But in one thyng we preyſe yowre ſadneſſys and diſcrecōnys ryht much that is in kepyng of yo^r trewſe and peſe w^t the Kyng of Fraunce as the Kyng hath commaundid and a grete reſon why for ht were to much for yow to have werre w^t all the world at onys ffor the werre a fore ſeid kepith yow blameles ffor every reſonable mā wetyth well that ht is to much for eny pepyll levyng to do bothe at onys.

Syr as for the more p'ts off my thowht I praye yow recomaunde me un to yowr ſelf prayyng yow that y may contynew in ſuch caſe as yo^r godenes hath taken me of old and if ye lyſt to ſend eny tydyngs or other thȳg to the partyes that were wont to warme theym by yo^r fyre in feith I ſhall do yo^r erand.

And as for Barley ht is of the ſame pryce that ht was wont to be of and is the moſt ſure corne and beſt enduryng that may be, and Syr where that ſumtyme was a lytyll hole in a wall is now a dore large ynowh and eſy paſſage whereof ye were the deviſer and have thank for yo^r labor of ſum p'tyes but no thyng laſtyth evyr. Y mene that y trow my paſſage ſhall haſtyly faile me and the dore ſhalbe ſhet up agayne, leſſe than Fortun be agreable to have my counſeile kept for not long ago makȳg my entre at that paſſage I ſaw a Sparow that uſeth thoſe ewrys and I ſaw her ſytt ſo ſtille that y cowde not endure but y muſt neds ſhote her and ſo God me help I ſmote her I trow evȳ to the hert and ſo I drede me leſt owther the Barley

wyll

have no reſcue of us, for ſo God me help, we have enough to do in theſe parts with the ſame wars.

But in one thing we praiſe your ſadneſſes [*wiſdoms*] and diſcretions right much, that is, in keeping of your Truce and Peace, with the King of France, as the King hath commanded; and a great reaſon why, for it were too much for you to have war with all the world at once, for the war aforeſaid keepeth you blameleſs, for every reaſonable man weeteth well, that it is too much for any people living to do both at once. Sir, as for the more part of my thought, I pray you recommend me unto yourſelf, praying you that I may continue in ſuch caſe as your goodneſs hath taken me of old, and if ye liſt to ſend any tidings, or other thing to the parties that were wont to warm them by your fire, in faith I ſhall do your errand.

As for Barley, it is of the ſame price that it was wont to be of, and is the moſt ſure corn, and beſt enduring that may be; and Sir, where that ſome time was a little Hole in a wall, is now a Door large enough and eaſy paſſage, whereof ye were the Deviſer, and have thank for your labour of ſome parties, but nothing laſteth ever; I mean that I trow, my paſſage ſhall haſtily fail me, and the Door ſhall be ſhut up again; leſs then [*unleſs*] Fortune be agreeable to have my Counſel kept; for not long ago making my entry at that paſſage, I ſaw a Sparrow that uſeth thoſe eireys, and I ſaw her ſit ſo ſtill that I could not endure, but I muſt needs ſhoot her, and ſo God me help. I ſmote her I trow even to the heart; and ſo I dread me leſt either the

Barley

wyll ete the Sparow or ells the Sparow wyll ete the Barley but as yet all is well but reſon ſhewt me that ht muſt neds fayle by contynewauns leſſe than I forſake bothe the Sparow and the Barley alſo.

Syr I have thank for the ſhew that I onys made of yow and daily gramercy, and ye theire prayer.

Syr forthemore I beſeche yow as ye wyll do eny thyng for me that ye ſe o day for my ſake and for yo^{r} own pleſure all the gode Hors in Caleys and if ther be among theym eny pric horſe of deds that is to ſell in eſpeciall that he be well trottyng of his owne corage w^{t} owte fort of ſporis and alſo a * ſteryng hors if he be he is the bett' I pray yow ſend me word of his color deds and corage and alſo of his pric' feynȳg as ye wold by hȳ yo^{r}ſelf and alſo I wold have hȳ ſumwhat large, not w^{t} the largeſt, but no ſmalle hors as more than a dowble hors prayyng yow above all thyngs to have ths in remembrauns and that haſtily as may be for ther is late p'myſed me help to ſuch an entent and I wote not how long ht ſhall endure and therfor I beſeche yow ſend me word by tyme.

I trow the Frenſhe men have taken up al the gode hors in Pycardye and alſo they be wont to be hevy hors in labor and y^{t} I love not, but a hevy hors of fleſh and lyht of corage y love well, for y love no hors that wyll al way be lene and ſlender like grehounds God kepe yow.

Yo^{r}.

J. Pympe.

Y pray yow to recomaund me to my cofȳ S^{r}. John Scot and all his in eſpeciall maſtres [1] Benȳgfeld.

8 ¾ by 11 ¾.

[1] Margaret, Daughter of Sir John Scot, and wife to Edmund Bedingfeld.

L C T.

Barley will eat the Sparrow, or elſe the Sparrow will eat the Barley, but as yet all is well, but reaſon ſheweth me, that it muſt needs fail by continuance, leſs then [*unleſs*] I forſake both the Sparrow and the Barley alſo.

Sir, I have thank for the ſhew that I once made of you and daily gramercy [*great thanks*], and ye their prayer.

Sir, farthermore I beſeech you, as ye will do any thing for me, that ye ſee one day for my ſake, and for your own pleaſure, all the good Horſe in Calais, and if there be amongſt them any prized horſe of deeds, that is to ſell, in eſpecial that he be well trotting of his own courage, without force of Spurs, and alſo a * ſteering horſe if he be, he is the better; I pray you ſend me word of his colour, deeds, and courage, and alſo of his price, feigning as ye would buy him yourſelf, and alſo I would have him ſomewhat large, not with the largeſt; but no ſmall horſe, as [*Q. no*] more than a double horſe; praying you above all things to have this in remembrance, and that haſtily as may be, for there is late promiſed me help to ſuch an intent, and I wote not how long it ſhall endure; and therefore I beſeech you ſend me word by time.

I trow the French men have taken up all the good horſe in Picardy, and alſo they be wont to be heavy horſe in labour, and that I love not, but a heavy horſe of fleſh, and light of courage I love well, for I love no horſe that will always be lean and ſlender like Greyhounds. God keep you.

Your,

JOHN PYMPE.

(*Recd.*) Sunday, 16th of March, 1476, 17 E. IV.

I pray you to recommend me to my Couſin Sir John Scot and all his, in eſpecial Mrs. [1] Bedingfeld.

* Quære, a horſe that obeys the rein.

LETTER *LXXIJ.

To Maſtr. Sr. John Paſton knight be this Lettr delyvered in Calis.

FRESH amorouſe ſihts of Cuntreys ferre and ſtraunge
Have all [1] fordoone yor. old affeccōn
In pleſurys new yor hert dooth ſcore and raunge
So hye and ferre that like as the Fawcon
Which is alofte tellith ſcorne to loke a down
On hym that wont was her feders to pyke and [2] ymye
Ryht ſo forgotȳ ye have yor pore pympe.

That wrytith ſendith and wiſshith alday yor wele
More than his owne but ye ne here ne ſe
Ne ſey ne ſend and evyr I write and ſele
In p'ſe and ryme as well as ht will be
Sum evyll tong I trow myſs ſayeth of me
And ells yor faſt and feithfull frendelynes
Ye thenk myſſpent on ſuch as I I geſſe.

I have here given a Letter written to Sir John Paſton in rhyme, as a ſpecimen of the Poetry of the age.

It contains neither Anecdote, nor Information, except expreſſing the Writer's ſorrow at the fear of having by his extravagances diſpleaſed Sir John—the Simile of the Falcon is happily introduced.

I wyll

LETTER *LXXVII.

To Maſter Sir John Paſton, Knight, be this Letter delivered at Calais.

FRESH amorous Sights of Countries far and ſtrange
Have all [1] fordone your old affection;
In Pleaſures new, your heart doth ſcour and range
So high and far; that like as the Falcon
Which is aloft, telleth [Q. *taketh*] ſcorn to look a down
On him that wont was her Feathers to pick and [2] imp;
Right ſo forgotten ye have your poor Pymp.

That writeth, ſendeth, and wiſheth all day your weal
More than his own; but ye nor hear, nor ſee,
Nor ſay, nor ſend, and ever I write and ſeal
In proſe and rhyme, as well as it will be;
Some evil tongue I trow mis-ſaith of me
And elſe your faſt and faithful friendlineſs
Ye think mis-ſpent on ſuch as I, I gueſs.

By the Writer's inquiry concerning a Horſe, and his referring back to his former Letters, this appears to have been written in the latter end of March, or in April, 1477, 17 E. IV. Pl. VI. N° 29.

[1] Deſtroyed.

[2] A Term in Falconry, ſignifying the adding a piece to a feather in a hawk's wing.

I wyll abate my cuſtomable concourſe
To yow ſo [3] coſtuouſe whan ſo evyr ye com agayn
Which that I fele of reſon by the courſe
Of my p'ferid ſ'vyce hath made yow ſo unfayne
For veryly the water of the Fowntayne
W[t] brede only forthw[t] yowre preſens
Me ſhuld content much more than yo[r] expenſe.

But ay deme I thus that Fortun hath hyryd yow
For ſhe but late of ſorowys moo than many
Hath rakyd un to myn hert an hepe more thā a moowe
And wuld that ye ſhuld ley thereon on hye
Yo[r] hevy unkyndenes to make ht faſt to lye
And God know[t] well ht cannot lōg lye there
But ht wyll bryng me to the chirch bere.

Take ht awaye therefore y praye yow fayre
For hardyly my hert beryth hevy y nowh
For there is ſorow at reſt as in hys chayre
Fixid ſo faſt w[t] hys p'kks rowh
That in gode feith I wote not whā I lowh
For Maſt[r]. Paſton the thyng whereon my bliſſe
Was holly ſette is all fordoone I wyſſe.

By yo[r]. JOHN PYMPE, thes beyng
the vj Lett[r]. that I have ſend yow.

[3] Expenſive.

Alway

I will abate my cuſtomable concourſe,
To you ſo ſ coſtuous, when ſo ever ye come again,
Which that I feel of reaſon, by the courſe
Of my profferred ſervice, hath made you ſo unfain;
For verily the Water of the Fountain
With bread only forthwith your preſence
Me ſhould content much more than your expence.

But aye deem I thus that Fortune hath hired you,
For ſhe but late of ſorrows more than many
Hath raked unto my heart an heap more than a mow,
And would that ye ſhould lay thereon on high
Your heavy unkindneſs to make it faſt to lie,
And God know't well it cannot long lie there
But it will bring me *(un)* to the church bier.

Take it away therefore I pray you fair,
For hardily my heart beareth heavy enough,
For there is Sorrow at reſt as in his chair,
Fixed ſo faſt with his pricks [*prickles*] rough,
That in good faith I wot not when I love,
For Maſter Paſton the thing whereon my bliſs
Was wholly ſet, is all fordone, I wis.

By your JOHN PYMPE.

this being the 6th Letter that I have ſent you

Always

Alway prayyng yow to remembr the hors that I have in every Lett^{r} wryten for, As thus, that hit wuld pleſe yow to undreſtond who hath the gentylleſt hors in trottyng and ſteryng that is in Calis and if he be to ſell to ſend me word of hys pris largeneſſe and colo^{r} hytt is told me that the Maſt^{r}. Port^{r} hath a coragiouſe ronyd hors and that he wuld putt hȳ away by cauſe he is daungerous in companye and of that I forc not ſo that he be not chorliſsh at a ſpore as plungyng and alſo I ſett not by hȳm but if he trotte hye and gētilly No more but God kepe yow.

John Pympe.

5 ¼ by 12.

LETTER LXXVIII.

To my Ryght Worſhypfull Moodr' Margret Paſton.

PLEASE it yow to weete y^{t} I have receyvyd yowr Lett' wherein is remembryd the gret hurte y^{t} by liklihod myght ffalle to my brother iff ſo be y^{t} thys matt' betwyn hym and S^{r}. Thom's Brewſes Doghtr' take nott effecte, wheroff I wolde be as ſory as hym ſelffe reaſonably and alſo y^{e} welthy and convenyent marriage y^{t} ſcholde be iff it take effecte wheroff I wolde

Always praying you to remember the Horſe that I have in every Letter written for; as thus, that it would pleaſe you to underſtand who hath the gentleſt horſe in trotting and ſteering that is in Calais, and if he be to ſell, to ſend me word of his price, largeneſs, and colour.

It is told me, that the Maſter Porter hath a courageous roaned horſe, and that he would put him away becauſe he is dangerous in company, and of that I force [*care*] not, ſo that he be not churliſh at a ſpur, as plunging; and alſo I ſet not by him, but if [*unleſs*] he trot ſome what high and genteelly. No more, but God keep you.

Latter End of March, or April,
1477, 17 E. IV.

LETTER LXXVIII.

To my right Worſhipful Mother, Margaret Paſton.

PLEASE it you to weet, that I have received your Letter, wherein is remembered the great hurt, that by likelihood might fall to my brother, if ſo be that this matter between him, and Sir Thomas Brews's Daughter take not effect; whereof I would be as ſorry as himſelf reaſonably; and alſo the wealthy and convenient marriage, that ſhould be if it take effect;

wolde be as gladde as any man and ame bett' content nowe y^t^ he ſholde have hyr than any other y^t^ evyr he was hertoffoor abowte to have hadde conſyderyd hyr perſone hyr yowthe and the ſtok y^t^ ſhe is comyn offe, y^e^ love on bothe ſydes, y^e^ tendre ffavor y^t^ ſhe is in w^t^ hyr ffad^r^ and mood^r^, the kyndeneſſe off hyr ffadr and moodr to hyr in dep'tyng w^t^ hyr, the ffavor alſo and goode conceyte y^t^ they have in my brother, The Worſhypfull and vertuous dyſpoſicōn off hyr ffadr and moodr whyche p'noſtikyth y^t^ of lyklihod the Mayde ſholde be vertuous and goode, all which concyderyd and the neceſſary relyffe y^t^ my brother moſt have, I mervayle the leſſe y^t^ ye have dep'tyd and gevyn hym the man' off Sperham in ſuch fforme as I have knowleche off by W. Gornay Lomner and Skypwyth and I ame ryght gladde to ſe in yow ſuche kyndeneſſe on to my brother as ye have doon to hym, and wolde by my trowthe lever than C li. y^t^ it weer ffee ſymple londe as it is entaylyd, whyche by liklyhood ſcholde proſper w^t^ hym and hys blode the bett' in tyme to come and ſholde alſo neu' cauſe debate in owr bloode in tyme to come whyche Godde dyffende ffor that weer onnaturell.

It'm another inconvenyence is, wher as I undreſtande y^t^ the man' is gevyn to my brother and to hys wyff and to y^e^ iſſywe bytwen them bygoten; Iff the caſe weer ſoo y^t^ he and ſhe hadde

In this Letter Sir John Paſton (Pl. IV. N° 9.) ſhows himſelf a kind and generous Brother, in permitting his Mother to give the Manor of Sparham, which appears to be entailed on him and his iſſue, to his younger Brother; and though he cannot conſcientiouſly

whereof I would be as glad as any man; and am better content now, that he ſhould have her, than any other, that ever he was heretofore about to have had, conſidered. Her Perſon, her Youth, and the ſtock that ſhe is come of, the Love on both ſides, the tender favour that ſhe is in with her father and mother; the kindneſs of her father and mother to her in departing with her, the favour alſo, and good conceit that they have in my Brother, the worſhipful and virtuous diſpoſition of her father and mother, which prognoſticateth that, of likelihood, the maid ſhould be virtuous and good; all which conſidered, and the neceſſary relief that my Brother muſt have, I marvel the leſs, that ye have departed, and given him the manor of Sparham, in ſuch form as I have knowledge of by W. Gornay, Lomner, and Skipwith; and I am right glad to ſee in you ſuch kindneſs unto my Brother as ye have done to him; and would by my truth lever [*rather*] than an 100l. that it were fee ſimple land, as it is intailed, which by likelihood ſhould proſper with him and his blood the better in time to come, and ſhould alſo never cauſe debate in our blood [*contention in our family*] in time to come, which God defend [*forbid*], for that were unnatural.

Item, another inconvenience is, whereas I underſtand that the manor is given to my Brother, and to his Wife, and to the Iſſue between them begotten; if the caſe were ſo, that he and

entiouſly permit the entail to be defeated, as the Will of the Dead by this means would not be performed, he very readily conſents to enter into an engagement to debar himſelf from ever moleſting his Brother or his Widow in their quiet poſſeſſions thereof.

hadde yſſywe togedr a Dowtr or mòo, and hys wyffe dyed and he maried afftr another and hadde iſſywe a Sone, y^t^ Sone ſholde have noon londe and he beyng hys ffadres heyr, and ffor thenconvenyence y^t^ I have knowe let in ur in caſe lyke and yit enduryth in Kente by tweyn a Jentylman and his Suſt', I wolde ye toke the advyce off yowr concell in thys poynt, and that y^t^ is paſt yow by wrightyng or by promiſe I deme verrely in yow y^t^ ye dyd it off kyndeneſſe and in eſchywyng off a moor yll y^t^ myght befall.

It'm wher as it pleaſyth yow that I ſholde ratefye grawnt or cõferme the ſeyd gyfte on to my brother it is ſo y^t^ w^t^ myn honeſte I may nott and ffor other cawſes, the Pope will ſuffre a thyng to be uſyd but he will nott lycence nor grant it to be uſyd nor don and ſoo I, my Brother John knowyth myn entent weel i now heer to ffoor in this mat'. I will be ffownde to hym as kynde a brother as I may be.

It'm, iff it be ſoo y^t^ S^r^. T. Brews and hys wyff thynke y^t^ I wolde troble my brother and hys wyff in the ſeid man' I can ffynde no meene to putte them in ſywerte y^r^ off but iff it neede to be bownde in an obligacõn w^t^ a condicõn y^t^ I ſhalle nott trowble ner infet' them therin.

It' I thynke y^t^ ſhe is made ſywer i now in aſtate in the londe and that off Ryght I deme they ſhall make noone obſtacles at my wryghtyng ffor I hadde neu' non' aſtate in the londe, ner I wolde nott y^t^ I had hadde.

No mor to yow at thys tyme, but Allmyghty God have

ſhe had iſſue together a Daughter or more, and his wife died, and he married after another, and had iſſue a Son, that Son ſhould have none land, and he being [*although he be*] his father's Heir, and for the inconvenience that I have known late in ure [*in practice*] in caſe like, and yet endureth in Kent, between a Gentleman and his Siſter, I would ye took the advice of your counſel in this point, and that *(which)* is paſt you by writing or by promiſe, I deem verily in you, that ye did it of kindneſs, and in eſchewing of a more [*a greater*] ill that might befall.

Item, whereas it pleaſeth you that I ſhould ratify, grant, and confirm the ſaid gift unto my Brother, it is ſo, that with mine honeſty I may not, and for other cauſes.

The Pope will ſuffer a thing to be uſed, but he will not licence nor grant it to be uſed nor done, and ſo I.

My Brother John knoweth mine intent well enough heretofore in this matter; I will be found to him as kind a Brother as I may be.

Item, if it be ſo that Sir Thomas Brews and his Wife think that I would trouble my Brother and his Wife in the ſaid Manor, I can find no means to put them in ſurety thereof, but if it need, to be bound in an obligation with a condition that I ſhall not trouble nor infet [*infeſt*] them therein.

Item, I think that ſhe is made ſure enough in eſtate in the land, and that of right I deem they ſhall make none obſtacles at my writing, for I had never none eſtate in the land, nor I would not that I had.

No more to you at this time, but Almighty God have you in keeping.

yow in kepyng. Wretyn at Caleys the xxviij daye of Marche A°. E. iiij. xvij°.

By yowr Sone,

J. Paſton, K.

11 ¾ by 9 ½.

LETTER LXXIX.

To John Paſton Eſquyer.

RYG' worſhypfull and hertely belovyd Brother, I recomaunde me to yow letyng yow weete yᵗ as by Pyrſe Moody when he was heer I hadde no leyſer to ſende āſwer in wryghtyng to yow and to my Coſyne Gurnaye off yowr lett'is. butt ffor a concluſion ye ſhalle ffynde me to yow as kynde as I maye be my concienſe and worſhyp ſavyd, whiche when I ſpeke wᵗ yow and them ye bothe ſhall weell undreſtande and I praye God ſende yow as goode ſpeede in yᵗ matᵉ as I wolde ye hadde, and as I hope ye ſhall have er thys lettᵉ come to yow and I praye God ſende yow yſſywe betwyne yow yᵗ maye be as honorable as euᵉ was any off your Anceſtris and theris wheroff I wolde be as gladde in manᵉ as oft myn owne. Wherffor I praye yow ſende me worde how ye doo and iff Godde ffortune me

Written at Calais, the 28th day of March, in the 17th year of Edward IV.

By your Son,

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Calais,
Friday, 28th of March,
1477, 17 E. IV.

LETTER LXXIX.

To John Paſton, Eſquire.

RIGHT worſhipful and heartily beloved Brother, I recommend me to you, letting you weet, that as by Peirſe Moody, when he was here, I had no leiſure to ſend anſwer in writing to you, and to my Couſin Gurney, of your Letters, but for a concluſion ye ſhall find me to you as kind as I may be, my conſcience and worſhip ſaved, which, when I ſpeak with you and them, ye both ſhall well underſtand and I pray God ſend you as good ſpeed in that matter as I would ye had, and as I hope ye ſhall have ere this Letter come to you; and I pray God ſend you Iſſue between you, that may be as honourable as ever was any of your Anceſtors and theirs, whereof I would be as glad in manner as of mine own; wherefore I pray you ſend me word how ye do, and if God fortune me to do well,

me to doo weell and be off any power, I woll be to Sr. Thomas Brewſe and my Lady hys wyffe a verry Sone in lawe ffor yowr ſake and take them as ye doo and doo ffor them as iff I weer in caſe like wt them as ye bee. No moor but Jh'e have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn at Caleys the xiiij daye off Aprill Aº. E. iiij. xvijº.

As ffor tydyngs her the ffrenſhe Kynge hathe gothen many off the towns off the Duk of Burgoyne as [1] Seynt Quyntyns Abevyle Motrell and now off late he hathe goten [2] Betoyne and Hedynge wt the Caſtell ther whyche is on' off ye ryalleſt Caſtells off the worlde and on Sonday at evyn the Ameralle off Fraunce leyde ſeege at Boloyne and thys daye it is ſeyde yt ye ffrenſhe Kynge ſhalle com' thyddr and thys nyght it is ſeyde yt ther was a Vyſion ſeyne abowte ye walls of [3] Boloyne as it hadde ben a woman wt a mervylowſe lyght men deme yt owr Lady ther will ſhewe hyrſelff a Lover to yt towne. God fforfende yt it weer ffrenſhe it weer worthe xl ml li. yt it wer Englyſhe.

[4] J. Paſton, K.

11 ½ by 7 ½.

This Letter again aſſures John Paſton of his brother's intended kindneſs to him, hi Wife, and her Friends.

[1] St. Quintin, Abbeville, and Montreuil are all in the province of Picardy in France.

[2] Bethune and Heſden are in the province of Artois, in the French Netherlands.

LET-

well, and be of any power, I will be to Sir Thomas Brewſe, and my Lady his wife, a very Son-in-law for your ſake, and take them as ye do, and do for them as if I were in caſe like with them as ye be.

No more, but Jeſu have you in keeping.

Written at Calais, the 14th day of April, in the 17th year of Edward IV.

As for tidings here, the French King hath gotten many of the Towns of the Duke of Burgundy, as [1] Saint Quintin's, Abbeville, Montreuil; and now of late he hath gotten [2] Bethune and Hedynge with the Caſtle there, which is one of the royaleſt Caſtles of the world; and on Sunday at even the Admiral of France laid ſiege at Bologne; and this day it is ſaid, that the French King ſhall come thither; and this night it is ſaid, that there was a Viſion ſeen about the Walls of [3] Bologne, as it had been a Woman with a marvellous light; men deem that our Lady there, will ſhew herſelf a Lover to that Town: God forefend [*forbid*] that it were French, it were worth 40,000*l.* that it were Engliſh.

[4] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

Calais,
Monday, 14th of April
1477, 17 E. IV.

Paper Mark,
French Arms,
and I. E. S.
Pl. XIV. N° 22.

[3] This Town, on the Engliſh Channel, in the province of Picardy, in France, which Sir John eſteems of ſuch conſequence, was taken by the Engliſh, in the reign of Henry VIII. but reſtored again to France, on a ranſom of 300,000 Crowns.

The ſtory of the Apparition ſhews the ſuperſtition of the age, which immediately aſcribed it to the Care of our Lady, and as a ſign of her protecting the place.

[4] Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 9.

LET-

LETTER LXX.

To John Paſton Eſquyer.

I Recomand me to yow letyng yow weete y^t I have ſpoken to [1] Herry Colett and entretyd hym in my beſt wyſe ffor yow ſoo y^t at y^e laſt he is agreyd to a reſonable reſpyght ffor y^e xv li. y^t ye ſholde have payd hym at Mydſom' as he ſeyth and is gladde to do yow eaſe or pleſyr in all y^t he maye and I tolde hym y^t ye wolde as I ſuppoſyd be heer at London herr nott long to and than he lokyth afftr y^t ye ſholde com' ſee hym ffor he is Sheryff and hathe a goodely hows.

It' my Lady off [2] Oxenfforth lokyth afftr yow and Arblaſt' bothe.

My Lord off [3] Oxenfford is nott comen in to Inglonde y^t I can p'ceyve, and ſo y^e goode Lady hathe nede off helpe and cowncell howe y^t ſhe ſhall doo.

No moor at thys tyme butt God have yow in kepyng.

Wretyn att London on Seynt Awdryes daye A°. E. iiij^ti xvij°.

Tydyngs butt y^t yiſt'daye my Lady Marqueys off [4] Dorſet whych is my Lady Haſtyngs Dowtr hadyd Chylde a Sone.

[1] Sir Henry Colet was Lord Mayor of London, in 1486.

[2] Margaret, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury; ſhe was during the impriſonment of her Lord in great diſtreſs.

[3] John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, was at this time a Priſoner in the Caſtle of Hammes, in Picardy; what expectation there was of his coming into England at this time I know not.

It'

LETTER LXXX.

To John Paſton, Eſquire.

I Recommend me to you, letting you weet, that I have ſpoken with [1] Harry Colett, and entreated him in my beſt wiſe for you, ſo that at the laſt he is agreed to a reaſonable reſpite for the 15l. that ye ſhould have paid him at Midſummer, as he ſaith, and (*he*) is glad to do you eaſe or pleaſure in all that he may; and I told him that ye would, as I ſuppoſed, be here at London, here not long to, and then he looketh after, that ye ſhould come ſee him, for he is Sheriff, and hath a goodly houſe.

Item, my Lady of [2] Oxford looketh after you and Arblaſter both.

My Lord of [3] Oxford is not come into England that I can perceive, and ſo the good Lady hath need of help and counſel how that ſhe ſhall do.

No more at this time, but God have you in keeping.

Written at London on Saint Audrey's [*Etheldreda's*] day, in the 17th year of Edward IV.

Tidings but [*only*] that yeſterday my Lady Marchioneſs of [4] Dorſet, which is my Lady Haſtyngs's Daughter, had childed a Son.

[4] Cecily, ſecond Wife to Thomas Grey, Marquis of Dorſet, was Daughter and Heir of William Bonvile, Lord Bonvile and Harrington, by Katharine, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury, who was now the Wife of Lord Haſtyngs, Lord Chamberlain, and Governor of Calais.

It' my Lord Chamb'leyn is comyn hyddr ffro Caleys and redyn wt ye Kynge to Wyndeſhor and ye Kyng will be her' ageyn on mondaye.

5 J. P. K.

5 Autograph. Pl. IV. N° 12.

11 ½ by 5 ½.

LETTER LXXJ.

Un to the Ryght Wurſchepful Sr. John Paſton knyght.

MAST' Paſton after all dew recomandacōn and herty diſſire to here of your good hele Pleſe yt you to wete, I have ſpoken wt Sr John of Medilton as wel as I cowde and yt had ben for myſelf for his Hoby that ye diſſired, and tolde hym he myght wel forbere hym nowe in as moche as Maſtres Jane was ded, and that yt is a great coſt for hym to kepe moo hors than he nedyth, and he anſwered me that he wold ſelle hym wt good will, but ther ſhuld no man bie hym under 1 x li. Flemeſch, and I offered hym in your name x marke for he wold not here

We have in this Letter ſeveral Anecdotes of a public nature, relative to the wars in France, and particularly concerning the Hoſtilities committed by the French King on the Poſſeſſions of the Heireſs of Burgundy.

of

Item, my Lord Chamberlain is come hither from Calais, and (*is*) ridden with the King to Windſor, and the King will be here again on Monday.

[5] JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Monday, 23d of June,
1477, 17 E. IV.

LETTER LXXXI.

Unto the Right Worſhipful Sir John Paſton, Knight.

MASTER Paſton, after all due recommendation, and hearty deſire to hear of your good hele [*health*], pleaſe it you to weet, I have ſpoken with Sir John of Middylton as well as I could, and it had been for myſelf, for his Hobby that ye deſired, and told him he might well forbear him now in as much as Mrs. Jane was dead, and that it is a great coſt for him to keep more Horſe than he needeth; and he anſwered me, that he would ſell him with good will, but there ſhould no man buy him under [1] 10*l.* Flemiſh; and I offered him in your name,

[1] Between 5 and 6l. Engliſh, and equal in value to upwards of 20l. at this preſent time, apparently a great price for a Hobby.

of none other ambelyng horſe that ye myght geve hym therfore, And alſo my Lord diſſired to have bowte hym for the Lord *Schauntrell that is Cheff Capteyn of [2] Seynt Omers and he wold no leſſe lete my Lord have hym than x li. and ſo my Lord bowte another, and gave hym the ſeide Lord, for he thoughte this to dere, neu'theleſſe he wol not ſelle hym to no man under that mony that he ſette hym on, And ſo ye may bye your pleſur in hym and ye leſt, for otherwyſe he wol not doo for you as I conſeve.

And as for tydyngs in theyſe p'tyes, the Frenche Keng leyzth at Sege at [2] Seynt Omers on the on' ſide of the town a myle of, but he hath no gret Ordenaunce ther, and they of the town ſkyrmyſh w[t] them eu'y day, and kepe a paſſage halff a myle w[t] oute the town, And the French Keng hath brenned All the townys and fayre Abbeys that were that way aboute Seynt Omers, and alſo the Cornes weche ar there. And alſo as yt ys ſeide for ſerteyn the French Keng hath brenned [3] Caſſell, that ys myn hoold [4] Lady of Burgeynys Joynttor and all the countre there aboute, whereby ſhe hath loſt a gret part of her Lyvelod, and that is a ſherewed tokyn that he [5] menyth wel to the Keng howur Suffereygn Lord when he intendyth to diſtroye her.

Morou' S[r]. Phylep de Crevekere hath takyn them that were in Fynys w[t] inne this iiij dayes to the noumbre of xiiij 'p'ſonys and the remñt where fled, and he had them to the French

* Ponton de Santrailles. A Nobleman of this name was taken priſoner by the Duke of Bedford, before Beauvais, and was exchanged for Lord Talbot, when he was captured at the battle of Pataie.

[2] A City of the French Netherlands, about 18 miles S. E. from Calais, and a part of the Poſſeſſions of the Houſe of Burgundy.

Keng,

10 Marks, for he would not hear of none other ambling Horſe, that ye might give him therefore.

And alſo my Lord deſired to have bought him for the Lord *Schauntrell that is chief Captain of Saint [2] Omers; and he would *(for)* no leſs let my Lord have him than 10l. and ſo my Lord bought another, and gave him the ſaid Lord, for he thought this too dear; nevertheleſs he will not ſell him to no man under that money, that he ſet him on, and ſo ye may buy your pleaſure in him and ye liſt; for otherwiſe he will not do for you as I conceive.

And as for tidings in theſe parts, the French King lieth at ſiege at [2] St. Omers, on the one ſide of the Town a mile off, but he hath no great Ordnance there; and they of the town ſkirmiſh with them every day, and keep a paſſage half a mile without the town; and the French King hath brenned [*burnt*] all the Towns, and fair Abbeys, that were that way about St. Omers, and alſo the Corns which are there.

And alſo, as it is ſaid for certain, the French King hath brenned [3] Caſſell, that is my old [4] Lady of Burgundy's Jointure, and all the Country thereabout, whereby ſhe hath loſt a great part of her livelihood; and that is a ſhrewd token that he [5] meaneth well to the King our Sovereign Lord, when he intendeth to deſtroy her.

Moreover Sir Philip de Creveker hath taken them that were in Fynes within this four days to the number of 14 perſons, and the remanent were fled, and he had them to the French King,

[3] A Town ſituated about 10 miles N. E. of St. Omers.
[4] Margaret, Siſter to Edward IV.
[5] This ſeems to be ſpoken in irony.

and

Keng, and he hath brentte all the place, and pulled down the Towre and a part of the wall and diſtroyed yt.

And as yt is ſeid yf the Fench Keng can not gete Seynt Omers that he intendyth to brenge his Armye thorwe theyſe Marchys into Flaundres, wherefore my Lord hath do brokyn all the paſſages excep Newham bryge, weche is wached and the Turne Pyke ſhette eu'y nyght. And, the ſeide French Keng w^t^ inne theſe iij dayes rayled gretely of my Lord to Tygyr Purſeūnt opynly byfore ij hundred of his Folks, wherefore yt ys thaught here that he wold feynde a quarell to ſett upon thys town, yf he myght gete avñtage, And as I underſtonde the [6] Emp'o'ys Sone ys maryed at [7] Gaūnte as this day, and ther cam w^t^ hym but iiij hundred horſe, and I can here of no moo that be comyng in ſerteyn, and in mony he brēgyth w^t^ hym an hundred thowſand [8] Dokets, wheche is but a ſmalle thyng in regard for that he hath to doo, wherefore I fere me ſore that Flaundres will be loſt, And yf Seynt Omers be whonnyn all is gon in my conceyt, neu' the leſſe they ſay there ſhuld come gret powere after the Emp'o'ys Son but I be leve yt not by cauſe they have ben ſo long of comyng.

And I pray you to recomaunde me unto S^r^. Tyrry [9] Robſert and that yt pleſe you to lete hym knowe of your tydyngs and hour Lord have you in his kepyng.

[6] Maximilian, Son of the Emperor Frederick, married Mary, Daughter and Heir of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy.—She was the richeſt Heireſs of her time, and had been promiſed by her Father to many Princes, and amongſt the number to this Prince, whom ſhe now choſe for herſelf.—She was about 19 years of age at the time of her marriage, in Auguſt 1477, and lived only five or ſix years after it.

At

and he hath brent all the place, and pulled down the Tower, and a part of the wall, and deſtroyed it.

And as it is ſaid, if the French King cannot get St. Omers, that he intendeth to bring his Army through theſe Marches into Flanders, wherefore my Lord hath do broken [*cauſed to be broken*] all the paſſages, except Newham Bridge, which is watched, and the Turnpike ſhut every night.

And the ſaid French King within theſe three days railed greatly of [*on*] my Lord to Tyger Pourſuivant, openly before two hundred of his Folks; wherefore it is thought here, that he would feign a quarrel to ſet upon this town, if he might get advantage.

And as I underſtand, the [6] Emperor's Son is married at [7] Ghent as this day; and there came with him but four hundred Horſe, and I can hear of no more that be coming in certain; and in money he brought with him an hundred thouſand [8] Ducats, which is but a ſmall thing in regard for that he hath to do; wherefore I fear me ſore, that Flanders will be loſt; and if St. Omers be won, all is gone in my conceit; nevertheleſs they ſay there ſhould come great power after the Emperor's Son, but I believe it not, becauſe they have been ſo long of coming.

And I pray you to recommend me unto Sir Terry [9] Robſart, and that it pleaſe you to let him know of your tidings, and our Lord have you in his keeping.

[7] A City of the Auſtrian Netherlands, and the capital of Flanders.

[8] A Ducat of Gold is worth about 10*s*.—Of Silver, nearly 5*s*.

[9] Sir Terry Robſart, knight, of Sidiſtern, in Norfolk, by the marriage of his Daughter Lucy, to Edward Walpole, Eſq. became an Anceſtor to the preſent Earl of Orford. He died in 1496.

At Calais the Sunday next after hour Lady the Aſſumpſion.

Your,

[10] E. Bedyngfeld.

11 ¾ by 8 ½.

[10] Edmund Bedyngfeld married Margaret, Daughter of Sir John Scot, Comptroller of Calais, and was created a Knight of the Bath, at the Coronation of Richard III. He

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LETTER LXXIX.

To my ryth reu'ent and worſcheful huſband Jon Paſton.

RYTH reu'ent and worſcheful huſbond I recomaũde me to yow deſyryng hertyly to her' of yowr wylfar thankyng yow for y[e] tokyn ye ſent me be Edmũde Perys preyng yow to wete y[t] my modyr ſent to my fadyr to London for a Goune cloth of [1] Muſtyrddevyllers to make of a Goune for me and he tolde my modyr and me wanne he was comme hom' y[t] he cargeyt yow to beyit aftyr y[t] he was come oute of London.

I pre yow if it be not bowt y[t] ye wyl wecheſaf to byit and ſendyt hom' as ſone as ye may for I have no Goune to werr yis wyntyr but my blak and my * grene a lyer and y[t] is ſo comerus y[t] I ham wery to weryt.

[1] This word occurs more than once in theſe Letters, but the meaning of it I cannot aſcertain to my own ſatisfaction; though perhaps it refers to ſome place in France, where the Cloth was manufactured. The following, however, appears the moſt ſatisfactory explanation: Muſterdevelers—Muſtyrddevyllers, *Moitié*, or (as ſometimes anciently and erroneouſly ſpelt) *Meſtier de Velours*, French, a Half-Velvet; or *Meſtis de Velours*, a Baſtard-Velvet. *Meſtoyant* is alſo an old French word, ſignifying *between both*. On the preſent occaſion, a proper allowance muſt be made for the imperfections of female ſpelling, in an age of unſettled orthography.

As

At Calais, the Sunday next after the Aſſumption.

Your,

[10] EDMUND BEDYNGFELD.

Calais,
Sunday, 17th of Auguſt,
1477, 17 E. IV.

He was highly in favour with Henry VII. who paid him a royal viſit at Oxburgh, in Norfolk; which fine Seat he built.—He died in 1496. Pl. VI. N° 30.

LETTER LXXXII.

To my right reverend and worſhipful Huſband, John Paſton.

RIGHT reverend and worſhipful Huſband, I recommend me to you, deſiring heartily to hear of your welfare, thanking you for the Token that ye ſent me by Edmund Perys, praying you to weet that my Mother ſent to my father to London for a Gown cloth of [1] Muſtyrddevyllers to make of a Gown for me; and he told my Mother and me when he came home, that he charged you to buy it, after that he was come out of London.

I pray you, if it be not bought, that you will vouchſafe to buy it, and ſend it home as ſoon as ye may, for I have no gown to wear this winter but my black and my * green a lyer, and that is ſo cumberous that I am weary to wear it.

* Qu. Grenouilliere, Frog-colour.

As for ye Gyrdyl yt my fadyr be-heſtyt me I ſpake to hym yer of a lytyl befor he yede to London laſt and he ſeyde to me yt ye faute was in yow yt ye wolde not thynk yer uppe on to do makyt but I ſopoſe yt ys not ſo he ſeydyt but for a ſkeuſacion. I pre yow yf ye der takyt uppe on yow yt ye wyl weche ſaf to do makyt a yens ye come hom' for I hadde neu' mor nede yer of yan I have now for I ham waxſe ſo fetys yt I may not be *gyrte in no barre of no Gyrdyl, yt I have but of on' Elizabet Peverel hath leye ſek xv or xvj wekys of ye Seyetyka but ſche ſent my modyr word be Kate yat ſche ſhuld come hedyr wanne God ſent tyme yoow ſche ſhuld be crod in a barow.

Jon of Dam' was her' and my modyr dyſkevwyrd me to hym and he ſeyed be hys trouth yt he was not gladder of no thyng yt he harde thys towlmonyth yan he was yer of.

I may no lēger leve be my crafte I am dyſſceawyrd of alle men yt ſe me.

Of alle odyr thyngys yt ye deſeyreyd yat I ſhuld ſende yow word of I have ſent yow word of in a lett' yt I dede wryte on ouwyr [2] Ladyis day laſte was ye holy trenyte have yow in heſe kepyng.

Wretyn at Oxnede in ryth gret haſt on ye thruſday next before Seynt Tomas day.

I pre yow yt ye wyl wer ye [3] reyng wt ye emage of Seynt

[2] Conception of our Lady, 8th of December.

[3] This Ring, bearing the Image of her favourite Saint, being worn by her huſband as a remembrance, might be looked upon as a guardian to her in her then ſituation, and be a means of preſerving her from any diſagreeable accident.

Margrete

As for the Girdle that my father beheſted [*promiſed*] me, I ſpake to him thereof a little before he yed [*went*] to London laſt, and he ſaid to me that the fault was in you, that ye would not think thereupon to do make it [*to have it made*], but I ſuppoſe that it is not ſo, he ſaid it but for a ſkeuſacion [*an excuſe*]; I pray you, if ye dare take it upon you, that ye will vouchſafe to do make it [*to have it made*] againſt ye come home, for I had never more need thereof than I have now, for I have waxed ſo fetys [*prettily*] that I may not be * girded in no bar of no girdle, that I have but of one. Elizabeth Peverel hath been ſick fifteen or ſixteen weeks of the Sciatica, but ſhe ſent my Mother word by Kate, that ſhe ſhould come hither when God ſent time, though ſhe ſhould be crowd [*wheeled*] in a barrow.

John of Dam was here, and my Mother diſcovered me to him, and he ſaid by his truth, that he was not gladder of nothing that he heard this twelvemonth, than he was thereof.

I may no longer live by my craft [*cunning*], I am diſcovered of all men that ſee me.

Of all other things that ye deſired that I ſhould ſend you word of, I have ſent you word of in a letter that I did write on [2] Our Lady's day laſt was; the Holy Trinity have you in his keeping.

Written at Oxnead, in right great haſte, on the Thurſday next before Saint Thomas's day.

I pray you that ye will wear the [3] Ring with the Image of

Query, Was not this Letter written in the beginning of July, 1478, the Tranſlation of St. Thomas being on the 7th, and the Viſitation of our Lady on the 2d of July?
It will thus accord with Letter LXXXV.
Autograph. Pl. VII. N° 7.

* The ſame very natural thought occurs in the ancient Ballad of Child Waters.

"My girdle of gold that was too longe,
"Is now too ſhort for mee."

See Percy's Collection, 3d edit, vol. III. p. 55.

Margrete y^{t} I ſent yow for a rememrauſe tyl ye come hom^{e} ye have lefte me ſweche a rememrauſe y^{t} makyth me to thynk uppe on yow bothe day and nyth wanne I wold ſclepe.

Yours,

Margery Paſton.

Paper Mark,
Croſs Keys,
Pl. xii. N° 19.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To my Ryght worſhypfull Modre Margret Paſton be thys delyu'ed.

PLEASE it yow to weete y^{t} wher as I entendyd to have ben at home thys Mydſom^{r} and p'poſyd w^{t} yowr goode helpe to have bygonne uppon my ffadrys tombe ſo y^{t} it myght have ben endyd thys ſomyr, it is ſoo y^{t} ffor ſuche cawſys as ar nowe bygunne by twyen my Lorde off Suff^{k} and me ffor the Manerys off Heyleſdon, Drayton, &c. for whyche mat'is I moſt nedys be heer thys nexte terme therffor I deme it woll be afftr Mydſom^{r} er than I can ſee yow.

Pleaſe it yow alſo to weete y^{t} I comonyd w^{t} maſt^{r} Pykenh'm to weete iff he wolde bye the clothe off golde for ſoo moche as he

Saint Margaret, that I ſent you for a remembrance, till ye come home; ye have left me ſuch a remembrance, that maketh me to think upon you both day and night when I would ſleep.

Yours,

MARGERY PASTON.

Oxnead,
Thurſday, 18th of December,
1477, 17 E. IV.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To my right worſhipful Mother Margaret Paſton, be this delivered.

PLEASE it you to weet, that whereas I intended to have been at home this Midſummer, and purpoſed with your good help to have begun upon my Father's Tomb, ſo that it might have been ended this Summer; it is ſo, that for ſuch cauſes as are now begun between my Lord of Suffolk and me, for the Manors of Heyleſdon, Drayton, &c. for which matters I muſt needs be here this next term; therefore I deem it would be after Midſummer, ere than [*before*] I can ſee you.

Pleaſe it you alſo to weet that I communed with Maſter Pykenham to weet if he would buy the Cloth of Gold for ſo much

he deſyryd ons to have bowte it and he offryd me ons xx marke therffor neu'theleſſe it coſte me xxiiij^{li} yit nowe when y^{t} I ſpake to hym ther off he refuſyd to bye it and ſeyde y^{t} he hadde nowe ſo many chargys y^{t} he maye nott. Butt it is ſoo y^{t} the Kynge dothe mak ſertayne copys and veſtymentys off like clothe whyche he entendyth to gyve to the Coledge at [1] Foodryngdre wher my Lorde hys ffadre is nowe buryed and he byethe at a grete pryce.

I comonyd w^{t} the veſtment maker ffor to helpe me ffoothe w^{t} xij yerds and he hathe grauntyd me to doo as Whetleye can telle yow, wherffor iff it pleaſe yow that it be byſtowyd ffor to make a Towmbe ffor my ffadre at Bromholme, iff ye lyke to ſende it hyddr iffe it be ſolde I undretake or Mychelmeſſe y^{t} ther ſhalle be a Tombe and ſomwhatt ellys ovyr my ffadris grave on whoys Sowle God have merſye y^{t} ther ſhall noone be lyke it in Norff and as ye ſhalle be gladde herafftr to ſee it, and God ſende me leyſer y^{t} I maye come home and iff I doo not yit the monye ſhall be putte to noon other uſe butt kepyd by ſome y^{t} ye truſt tylle y^{t} it may be byſtowyd acordȳg as is above wretyn and ellys I gyve yow cawſe nevyr to truſte me whylle ye and I lyve. When I was laſt w^{t} yow ye grauntyd y^{t} the ſeyde Clothe of Golde ſholde be bywaryd abowte thys werke y^{t} is above wretyn whyche iff ye wylle perfforme I undretake y^{t} ther ſhalle be

It appears by this Letter that Sir John Paſton (Pl. IV. N°. 9.) feared that his Mother would not ſend the Cloth of Gold to him, leſt he ſhould ſell it, and not apply the money to the purpoſe of erecting a Tomb to the memory of his Father, who had now been dead twelve years. He was buried very ſumptuouſly in Bromholm Priory, and probably a ſuitable

as he deſired once to have bought it, and he offered me once 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) therefore, nevertheleſs it coſt me 24*l.* yet now, when I ſpake to him thereof, he refuſed to buy it; and ſaid, that he had now ſo many charges that he may not.

But it is ſo that the King doth make certain Copes and Veſtments of like Cloth, which he intendeth to give to the College of [1] Fotheringhay, where my Lord his Father is now buried, and he buyeth at a great price; I communed with the veſtment maker for to help me forth with 12 yards, and he hath granted to do, as Wheatley can tell you; wherefore, if it pleaſe you that it be beſtowed for to make a Tomb for my father at Bromholm, if ye like to ſend it hither, if it be ſold I undertake ere Michaelmas, that there ſhall be a Tomb, and ſomewhat elſe over my Father's grave, on whoſe Soul God have mercy, that there ſhall none be like it in Norfolk; and as ye ſhall be glad hereafter to ſee it; and God ſend me leiſure that I may come home, and if I do not, yet the money ſhall be put to none other uſe, but kept by ſome other that ye truſt, till that it may be beſtowed according as is above written, and elſe I give you cauſe never to truſt me while ye and I live.

When I was laſt with you, ye granted, that the ſaid Cloth of Gold ſhould be bewared [*expended in exchange*] about this work, that is above written, which if ye will perform, I undertake

ſuitable tomb ſhould have been immediately erected, but had been deferred by Sir John from time to time on account of the expence.

[1] Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, Father of King Edward IV. was ſlain in the battle of Wakefield, in December, 1460; his corpſe was firſt interred at Pontefract, but afterwards removed to the collegiate church of Fotheringhay.

that

be ſuche a Towmbe as ye ſhalle be pleaſyd at thowgh it coſt me xx marke off myn owne purſe beſyde iff I ons ſette uppon it.

No mor but I beſeche Goode have yow in hys kepyng.

Wretyn at London y^e^ wednyſdaye in Whyghtſonweke A°. E. iiij^ti^ xviij°. Pleaſe it yow to ſende me worde by Whatley off yowr pleſyr her in.

By your Sone,

John Paſton, K.

12 by 6 ½.

LETTER LXXXIII.

To the Ryght Worſhypfull S^r^ John Paſton, Knyght.

I Greet yow well and ſend yow Goddys blyſſyng and mȳ. latyng yow wete y^t^ I have ſent yow be Whetele y^e^ Clothe of Golde chargyng yow yat it be not ſolde to nō other uſe yā to y^e^ p'rformyng ōf yowyr fadyrs toombe as ye ſend me worde in wrytyng, yf ye ſell yt to any othyr uſe by my trowthe I ſhall neu' troſt yow wyll I leve.

Remēbyr y^t^ yt coſte me xx^ti^ marke y^e^ pleggyng owte of yt and yf I wher not glad to ſe yt made I wolde not dep'tè from it. Remēbyr yow what charge I have had w^t^ yow of late whyche

wyl

that there ſhall be ſuch a Tomb, as ye ſhall be pleaſed with, though it coſt me 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) of mine own purſe beſide, if I once ſet upon it.

No more, but I beſeech God have you in his keeping.

Written at London the Wedneſday in Whitſun-week, in the 18th year of Edward IV.

Pleaſe you to ſend me word by Wheatley of your pleaſure herein.

By your Son,

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Wedneſday, 13th of May,
1478, 18 E. IV.

LETTER LXXXIV.

To the Right Worſhipful Sir John Paſton, Knight.

I Greet you well and ſend you God's bleſſing and mine, letting you weet that I have ſent you by Wheatley the Cloth of Gold, charging you that it be not ſold to none other uſe than to the performing of your Father's Tomb, as ye ſend me word in writing; if ye ſell it to any other uſe, by my truth, I ſhall never truſt you while I live.

Remember that it coſt me 20 marks (13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*) the pledging out of it, and if I were not glad to ſee that made, I would not depart from it. Remember you what charge I have

wyl not be for my eaſe yis ij yer, whan ye may bett' I troſt ye whyll remembyr yt.

[1] My Coſyn Cler' dothe as meche coſte at Bromhom as whylle drawe an C li. upon ye Deſkys in ye Quere and in othyr places, and Heydon in lyke whyſe and yf yer ſhulde no thyng be don for yr fadyr yt wolde be to gret a ſchame for us alle and in cheffe to ſe hym lye as he dothe.

Alſo as I und'ſtond yt my Coſyn Robt Clere thynkyth gret on kyndeneſſe in delyng wyth hym of Pecoke for certeyn paſture yt be grawntyd hym to have and Pecoke hath letyn it to othyr ſuche as he lyſte to lete yt to not wtſtondyng my Coſyn hath leyd ye paſtur wt hys Catell and Pecok hathe ſtrenyd them.

I thynk thys delyng is not as yt ſhulde be. I wolde yt iche of yow ſhulde do for other and leve as Kynnyſmen and Frendys, for ſuche S'vawnts my make trobyll by twyxe yow, wheche wher a ageynſte corteſy ſo nyhe newbors as ye be, he is a man of ſubſtance and worchyp and ſo wylle be takyn in thys ſchyr and I wer lothe yt ye ſhulde leſe ye good wylle of ſuche as may do for yow.

It', wher as ye have begonne yor cleyme in Heylyſdon and Drayton. I pȳ God ſend yow good ſpede and foderance in yit.

The following is indorſed, "Lrā Johi Paſton mil. p. quā patet." "Se fore in magno favore Regis."

This Letter is in anſwer to that of Sir John Paſton to his Mother (Pl. 11. N° 20.) dated 13th of May, 1478, and ſhews the deſire that ſhe had that ſome Tomb ſhould be erected over her Huſband's Grave.

Ye

had with you of late, which will not be for my eaſe this two years; when ye may better, I truſt ye will remember it.

[1] My Couſin Clere doth as much coſt at Bromholm as will draw an 100*l.* upon the Deſks in the Choir, and in other places, and Heydon in likewiſe, and if there ſhould nothing be done for your Father, it would be too great a ſhame for us all, and in chief to ſee him lie as he doth.

Alſo as I underſtand that my Couſin Robert Clere thinketh great unkindneſs in dealing with him of Peacock, for certain paſture that ye granted him to have, and Peacock hath let it to others, ſuch as he liſt to let it to, notwithſtanding my Couſin hath laid the paſture with his Cattle, and Peacock hath diſtrained them. I think this dealing is not as it ſhould be: I would that each of you ſhould do for *(the)* other, and live as Kinſmen and Friends; for ſuch Servants may make trouble betwixt you, which were againſt courteſy, ſo near neighbours as ye be. He is a man of ſubſtance and worſhip, and ſo will be taken in this ſhire; and I were loath that ye ſhould loſe the good will of ſuch as may do for you.

Item, whereas ye have begun your claim in Helleſdon and Drayton, I pray God ſend you good ſpeed and furtherance in it;

[1] William or Thomas Clere; they both died without iſſue, and were ſucceeded by Robert their next brother, who was knighted in 1494, and died in 1529. The advice which ſhe gives her Son reſpecting his behaviour towards this Gentleman, ſhews her to be a woman of ſenſe and diſcernment.

Ye have as good a ſeaſon as ye wulde wyſche conſyderyng yᵗ yoʳ Adu'ſary ſtandys not in beſt favyr wᵗ yᵉ Kynge.

Alſo ye have yᵉ voyſe in yⁱˢ Contre yᵗ ye may do as meche wᵗ yᵉ Kyng as any Knygth yᵗ ys longyng to yᵉ Corte, yf yt be ſo I pray God contynu yt, And alſo yᵗ ye ſhuld mary rygth nygth of yᵉ [2] Qwenys blood qwat ſche ys we are not as certeyn but yf yt be ſo yᵗ yowyr lond ſchuld come agayne by yᵉ reaſon of yoʳ maryage and to be ſett in reſt at yᵉ Reu'ence of God for ſake yt nowt yf ye can fynde in yoʳ harte to love hyr ſo yᵗ ſche be ſuche on' as ye can thynke to have Iſſu by or ellys by my trowthe I had rather yᵗ ye neu' maryd in yoʳ lyffe.

Alſo yf yowyr mater take not now to good effecte ye and all yowyr frendys may repent them yᵗ ye began yoʳ. cleyme wᵗ owte yᵗ ye have take ſuche a ſuyr wey as may be to yoʳ intent for many incōvenyens yᵗ may falle yeʳ of. God ſend yow good ſpede in all yowyr maters.

Wretyn at Mawteby yᵉ day aftᵉ Seȳt [3] Auſtyn in May yᵉ xviij yer of Kyng Edward yᵉ iiijᵗᵉ.

Be powyr Poopr.

12 by 10.

Some Lady of the Woodvile or Widvile family.

ye have as good a ſeaſon as ye would wiſh, conſidering that your Adverſary ſtands not in beſt favour with the King.

Alſo ye have the voice in this Country, that ye may do as much with the King, as any Knight that is belonging to the Court; if it be ſo, I pray God continue it; and alſo that ye ſhould marry right nigh of the [2] Queen's blood; what ſhe is we are not as certain, but if it be ſo, that your Land ſhould come again by the reaſon of your marriage, and to be ſet in reſt, at the reverence of God forſake it not, if ye can find in your heart to love her, ſo that ſhe be ſuch one as ye can think to have Iſſue by, or elſe my by truth, I had rather that ye never married in your life.

Alſo, if your matter take not now to good effect, ye and all your Friends may repent them that ye began your claim, without that ye have taken ſuch a ſure way, as may be to your intent, for many inconveniencies that may fall thereof; God ſend you good ſpeed in all your matters.

Written at Mawteby the day after Saint [3] Auſtin in May, the 18th year of King Edward the IVth.

By your Mother.

Mawteby,
Tueſday, 26th of May,
1478, 18 E. IV.

[3] St. Auguſtine, 25th of May.

LET-

LETTER LXXII.

To John Paſton eſquyer be thys Lettre delyu'yd or to my Meſtreſſe hys wyffe at Norwych to delyu' to hym.

BROTHER John I recomaund me to yow and I thanke God my Suſtr yowr wyffe and yow off my ffayr Nevywe Cryſtofore whyche I undreſtande ye have wher off I ame ryght gladde and I praye God ſende yow manye if it be hys pleſyr, neu'theleſs ye be nott kynde y^t^ ye ſende me no wetyng ther off I hadde knowlege by ffootemen or eu' ye kowde ffynde any Meſſeng^r^ on horſbak to brynge me worde theroff.

S^r^. it is ſoo y^t^ the Duke off [1] Bokyngh'm ſhall come on Pilgrymage to [2] Walſyngh'm and ſo to Bokenh'm Caſtell to my Lady hys [3] Suſtr, and then it is ſuppoſyd y^t^ he ſhalle to my Lady off [4] Norff', and myn Oncle Will'm comythe w^t^ hym and he tellyth me y^t^ ther is like to be troble in the man' off Oxenhed wherffor I praye yow take hedde leſſe y^t^ the Duke off Suff' coũcell pley therw^t^ now at the [5] vacacõn off the Beneffyſe as

We ſee by this Account the methods practiſed by the great men of the time to get poſſeſſion of Eſtates and Benefices; and we are informed of the King's Intention of ſitting as a Judge to try a Criminal: the Anecdotes likewiſe of the Earl of Oxford are curious.

[1] Henry Stafford; he was beheaded in 1483, 1 Richard III.

[2] Pilgrimages to our Lady of Walſingham, in Norfolk, were at this time undertaken by all ranks of people from the King to the Beggar.

they

LETTER LXXXV.

To John Paſton, Eſquire, be this Letter delivered, or to my Miſtreſs his Wife at Norwich, to deliver to him.

BROTHER John, I recommend me to you, and I thank God, my Siſter your Wife, and you, of my fair Nephew Chriſtopher, which I underſtand ye have, whereof I am right glad, and I pray God ſend you many, if it be his pleaſure; nevertheleſs ye be not kind, that ye ſend me no weeting thereof; I had knowledge by Footmen, or ever ye could find any meſſenger on horſeback to bring me word thereof.

Sir, it is ſo, that the Duke of [1] Buckingham ſhall come on Pilgrimage to [2] Walſingham, and ſo to Bokenham Caſtle to my Lady his [3] Siſter; and then it is ſuppoſed, that he ſhall to my Lady of [4] Norfolk, and mine Uncle William cometh with him; and he telleth me, that there is like to be trouble in the Manor of Oxnead; wherefore I pray you take heed, leſt that the Duke of Suffolk's Council play therewith now at the [5] Vacation of the Benefice, as they did with the Benefice of Drayton,

[3] Joan, Siſter to Henry, Duke of Buckingham, was the ſecond wife of Sir William Knevet, knight, of Bokenham Caſtle, in Norfolk.

[4] Elizabeth, Widow of John Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk.

[5] Agnes Paſton, Grandmother to Sir John, (Pl. IV. N° 9.) preſented Thomas Everard to the Rectory of Oxnead in 1475, and in 1479 ſhe again preſented William Barthulmew, ſo that the Duke of Suffolk either did not attempt to diſturb her right; or at leaſt did not ſucceed, if he endeavoured to do it.

they ded w^t the Beneffice off Drayton, whyche by the helpe off M^r. John Salett and Doñe hys man ther was a Qweſte made by the ſeyde Donne y^t ffownde y^t the Duke off Suff' was verrye Patrone whyche was ffalſe yitt they ded it ffor an evydence, but nowe iff any ſuche pratte[a] ſcholde be laboryd it is I hope in bettr caſe ffor ſuche a thynge moſt needs be ffownde byffor Maſt' John Smyth whyche is owr olde ffreende wherffor I praye yow labor hym y^t iff neede bee he maye doo uſe a ffreends torne therin.

It'm bothe ye and I moſt neds take thys mater as owr owne and it weer ffor noon other cawſe butt ffor owr goode Grawnt Dames ſake neu'theleſſe ye woote well thatt ther is an other entreſſe longyng to uſſe afftr her dyſceaſe, iffe ther be any ſuche thynge begune ther by ſuche a Fryer or Preſt as it is ſeyde I mervayle y^t ye ſente me no worde ther off, butt ye have nowe wyffe and chyld and ſo moche to kar ffor thatt ye ffor-gete me.

As for tydyngs her I her telle y^t my Coſyn S^r. Rob^t Chamb'-leyn hathe entryd the man' of Scolton uppon yowr [6] Bedffelawe, Conyerſe wheroff ye ſende me no worde.

It'm yonge Will'm [7] Brandon is in warde and areſtyd ffor thatt he ſcholde have by fforce ravyſshyd and ſwyvyd an olde Jentylwoman and yitt was nott therw^t eaſyd butt ſwyvyd hyr oldeſt Dowtr and than wolde have ſwyvyd the other Suſtr bothe wherffor men ſey ffowle off hym and that he wolde ete the

[6] A word at this time, implying a Friend, or intimate Acquaintance, who really ſlept in the ſame bed.——See Steevens's Shakſpeare, Henry V. Act II. Sc. II.

which by the help of Maſter John Salett and Donne his man, there was a Queſt [*Inqueſt*] made by the ſaid Donne, that found that the Duke of Suffolk was very Patron, which was falſe, yet they did it for an evidence; but now if any ſuch Prat [*Practice*] ſhould be laboured, it is I hope in better caſe, for ſuch a thing muſt needs be found before Maſter John Smyth, who is our old Friend; wherefore I pray you labour him, that, if need be, he may do us a friend's turn therein.

Item, both ye and I muſt needs take this matter as our own, and it were for none other cauſe, but for our good Grandam's ſake; nevertheleſs ye wote well, that there is another Entreſs [*Intereſt*] longing to us after her deceaſe; if there be any ſuch thing begun there by ſuch a Fryer or Prieſt, as it is ſaid, I marvel that ye ſent me no word thereof; but ye have now Wife and Child, and ſo much to care for, that ye forget me.

As for tidings here, I hear tell that my Couſin Sir Robert Chamberlain hath entered the Manor of Scolton upon your [6] Bedfellow Conyers, whereof ye ſend me no word.

Item, Young [7] William Brandon is in ward and arreſted for that he ſhould have by force raviſhed an old Gentlewoman, and yet was not therewith eaſed, but raviſhed her eldeſt Daughter, and then would have raviſhed the other Siſter both; wherefore men ſay foul of him, and that he would eat the Hen and all

[7] We are not told who this William Brandon was, therefore it muſt remain uncertain whether he was related to Sir William Brandon or not.

Henne and alle, hyr Chekyñys and ſom ſeye y^t the Kynge entendyth to ſitte uppon hym and men ſeye he is lyke to be hangyd ffor he hathe * weddyd a wedowe.

It'm as ffor the Pagent y^t men ſey y^t the Erle off [s] Oxenforde hathe pleyid atte Hammys I ſuppoſe ye have herde theroff itt is ſo longe agoo I was nott in thys contre when the tydyngs come therfor I ſent yow no worde theroff.

Butt ffor cōcluſion as I her ſeye he lyepe y^e wallys and wente to y^e Dyke and in to y^e Dyke to y^e chynne to whatt entent I can nott telle ſome ſey to ſtele awey and ſome thynke he wolde have drownyd hymſelffe, and ſo it is demyd.

No mor but I ame nott ſertayne whether I ſhall come home in haſt' or nott.

Wretyn at London the daye nexte Seynt [9] Bartelmewe A°. E. iiij^ti. xviij°.

John Paſton, K.

11 ¾ by 10 ¾.

[s] John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, had been for ſeveral years a Priſoner in the Caſtle of Hammes, in Picardy.

He became a Favourite of Henry VII. and died in the reign of Henry VIII.

L C T.

her Chickens; and ſome ſay that the King intendeth to ſit upon him, and men ſay, he is like to be hanged, for he hath * wedded a Widow.

Item, as for the Pagent [*Pageant*] that men ſay that the Earl of [8] Oxford hath played at Hammes, I ſuppoſe ye have heard thereof; it is ſo long ago, I was not in this Country when the tidings came, therefore I ſent you no word thereof, but for concluſion, as I hear ſay, he leaped the Walls, and went to the Dyke, and into the Dyke to the chin; to what intent I cannot tell; ſome ſay, to ſteal away, and ſome think he would have drowned himſelf, and ſo it is deemed.

No more, but I am not certain whether I ſhall come home in haſte or not.

Written at London, the day next Saint [9] Bartholomew, in the 18th year of Edward IV.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London, Sunday or Tueſday,
23d or 25th of Auguſt,
1478, 18 E. IV.

[9] 24th of Auguſt.

* His being already a married man was certainly an aggravation of his crime.

LETTER LXXXIX.

To y^t Ryght worſhyfull Meſtreſſe Margret Paſton be thys delyu'yd.

PLEASE it yow to weet y^t I have ben heer at London a xiiij nyght wheroff the ffyrſt iiij dayes I was in ſuche ffeer off the Sykneſſe and alſo ffownde my chambr and ſtuffe nott ſo clene as I demyd whyche troblyd me ſoor and as I tolde yow at my dep'tyng I was nott weell monyed ffor I hadde nott paſte x marke wheroff I dep'tyd xl^s to be delyu'yd off my olde bedfelawe and then I rode be yonde Donſtaple and ther ſpake w^t on off my cheffe Witneſſis whyche p'myſed me to take labor and to gete me wryghtyngs towchyng thys mat' bytwyen me and y^e Duke of ' Suff' and I rewardyd hym xx^s and then as I informyd yow I payed v m'rke incontynent uppon my comyng hyddr to replegge owte my Gowne off Velwett and other Geer.

And then I hopyd to have borowyd ſome off Townefend and he hath ffoodyd ne fforthe evyrſynys and in effecte I cowde have at y^e moſt and at y^e ſoneſt yiſt'daye xx^s. wherffor I beſeche yow to p'veye me C^s and alſo to wryght to Pekok y^t he p'veye me as moche C^s whyche I ſupoſe y^t he hathe gaddryd at Paſton and

This is the laſt Letter from Sir John Paſton (Pl. IV. N°. 9.) who died on the 15th of November following, but whether of the Sickneſs, (which he ſeems in this Letter ſo much to fear) I cannot diſcover. He here complains of ſickneſs of body, and ſeems to have

LETTER LXXXVI.

To the right worſhipful Miſtreſs Margaret Paſton, be this delivered.

PLEASE it you to weet, that I have been here at London a fortnight, whereof the firſt four days I was in ſuch fear of the Sickneſs, and alſo found my Chamber and Stuff not ſo clean as I deemed, which troubled me ſore; and as I told you at my departing, I was not well monied, for I had not paſt ten Marks (*6l. 13s. 4d.*) whereof I departed 40*s.* to be delivered of my old Bedfellow; and then I rode beyond Dunſtable, and there ſpake with one of my Witneſſes, which promiſed me to take labour, and to get me writings touching this matter, between me and the Duke of [1] Suffolk, and I rewarded him *(with)* 20*s.* and then, as I informed you, I paid five Marks (*3l. 6s. 8d.*) incontinent [*immediately*] upon my coming here to repledge out my Gown of Velvet and other Geer; and then I hoped to have borrowed ſome of Townſhend, and he hath *fooded not forth ever ſince, and in effect I could have at the moſt, and at the ſooneſt yeſterday 20*s.* wherefore I beſeech you to purvey me an 100*s.* and alſo to write to Peacock, that he purvey me as much, 100*s.* which I ſuppoſe that he hath gathered at Paſton and other

have likewiſe much uneaſineſs of mind.—The Lands at Caiſter, Helleſdon, &c. were a conſtant trouble to him from the Claims of the Duke of Norfolk, Suffolk, &c.

[1] John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk.

* Qu. footed, i. e. ſet foot out of his own houſe—or fooded, i. e. eat out of his own houſe, for fear of the ſickneſs mentioned at the beginning of this Letter.

Places,

and other placs by thys tyme, ffor w^t owte I have thys x li. as God helpe me I ffer I ſhalle doo butt litell goode in noo mat' nor yitt I woote nott howe to come home but iff I have it.

This Geer hathe troblyd me ſo y^t itt hathe madè me moor than halffe ſeke as God helpe me.

It' I undreſtande y^t myn Oncle Willm hathe made labor to yexchet' and y^t he hathe bothe a Wrytte off eſſend clowſyth extract and alſo a ſup'cedeas. I have wretyn to y^e Exchet' ther in off myn entent, iff myn Oncle hadde hys Wyll in that yitt ſholde he be neu' the nerre the londe butt in effecte he ſhold have thys advantage whyche is behovefull ffor a weyke mater, to have a colour or a clooke or a botraſe.

But on tyweſdaye I was w^t y^e Byſshop off [a] Hely whyche ſhewyth hymſelffe goode and worſhypfull and he ſeyde y^t he ſholde ſende to myn Oncle Will'm y^t he ſholde nott procede in no ſuche mat' till y^t he ſpeke w^t hym and moor ovyr y^t he ſholde cawſe hym to be heer haſtelye, in whyche mat' is no remedy as nowe but iff it wer ſoo y^t y^e Exchetor iff he be entretyd to ſytte by myn Oncle Will'm whyche p'caſe he ſhall nott, y^t iff my brother John and Lomnor have knowleche off the daye and they myght be ther Lomnor can geve evydence i now in that mater w^t owte y^e boke, and mor ovyr y^t they ſee bothe the lett' and the other Noote y^t I ſente to y^e Exchetor and w^t helpe off the Exchetor all myght be as beſte is and iff my brother and Lomnor take labor her in I ſhall recōpence ther coſts.

Wretyn in haſte w^t ſchort adviſement on the ffrydaye next Seynt Symonds and Jude A^o. E. iiij^ti. xix^o.

[a] John Morton, afterwards Archbiſhop of Canterbury, &c.

Places, by this time; for without I have this 10*l.* as God help me, I fear I ſhall do but little good in no matter, nor yet I wote not how to come home, but if [*unleſs*] I have it.

This Geer hath troubled me ſo, that it hath made me more than half ſick, as God help me.

Item, I underſtand that my Uncle William hath made labour to the Eſcheator, and that he hath both a Writ of eſſend: cloſeth extr; and alſo a Superſedeas. I have written to the Eſcheator therein of mine intent, if my Uncle had his will in that, yet ſhould he be never the nearer the Land, but in effect he ſhould have the advantage, which is behoveful for a weak matter to have a colour, or a cloak, or a buttreſs; but on Tueſday I was with the Biſhop of [2] Ely, who ſheweth himſelf good and worſhipful; and he ſaid that he ſhould ſend to mine Uncle William, that he ſhould not proceed in no ſuch matter, till that he ſpeak with him; and moreover that he ſhould cauſe him to be here haſtily; in which matter is no remedy as now, but if [*unleſs*] it were ſo, that the Eſcheator, if he be entreated to ſit by mine Uncle William, which percaſe he ſhall not, that if my brother John and Lomnor have knowledge of the day, and they might be there; Lomnor can give evidence enough in that matter without the book; and moreover that they ſee both the letter and the other note, that I ſent to the Eſcheator, and with help of the Eſcheator all might be as beſt is; and if my brother and Lomnor take labour herein, I ſhall recompence their coſts.

Written in haſte with ſhort adviſement on the Friday next Saint Simon and Jude, in the 19th year of Edward IV.

Let

Late my brother John ſe thys bille for he knoweth mor off thys mater.

John Paſton, K.

12 by 8 ½.
Paper Mark,
A Flaggon, or
Chalice.
Pl. XII. N° 20.

LETTER LXXVIJ.

To my Ryght worchepfull Modyr Margaret Paſton at Sey't Petr of Hundgate.

RYGHT worchepfull Modyr aſtȳr all dwtes of humble recomendacyon as lowly as I can I beſeche yow of yo^r^ dayly blyſſyng and preyes and Moder John Clement Berer heroff can tell yow the mor pite is if it pleaſyd God that my brodyr is beryed in the Whyghte Fryers at London whych I thought ſhold not have ben for I ſuppoſyd that he wold have ben beryed at Bromholme and that cauſyd me ſo ſone to ryd to London to have p'veyd hys bryngīg hom and if it had ben hys wylle to have leyn at Bromholm I had p'poſyd all the wey as I have redyn to have brought hom my 'Grauntdam' and hym to gedyrs

On the back of this Letter is written in an ancient hand, "a Lr'e ſent from Jo Paſton (Pl. IV. N° 9.) ar to his mother touching the Buryall of his Brother Sir John Paſton in London."

Sir

Let my brother John ſee this bill, for he knoweth more of the matter.

JOHN PASTON, Knight.

London,
Friday, 29th of October,
1479, 19 E. IV.

LETTER LXXXVII.

To my right worſhipful Mother, Margaret Paſton, at St. Peter's of Hungate.

RIGHT worſhipful Mother, after all duties of humble recommendation, as lowly as I can, I beſeech you of your daily bleſſing and prayers; and Mother, John Clement, Bearer hereof, can tell you the more pity is, if it pleaſed God that my Brother is buried in the White Fryers at London, which I thought ſhould not have been; for I ſuppoſed that he would have been buried at Bromholm, and that cauſed me ſo ſoon to ride to London, to have purveyed his bringing home, and if it had been his will to have lain at Bromholm, I had purpoſed all the way as I have ridden, to have brought home my [1] Grandam

Sir John Paſton died on the 15th of November, 1479, 19 Edward IV. aged between thirty and forty years, I ſhould ſuppoſe nearly forty. This Letter therefore was written in November 1479.

[1] Agnes, Daughter and Coheir of Sir Edmund Berry, knight, and Widow of Sir William Paſton, knight, died in 1479.

gedyrs but that p'poſe is voyd as now, but thys I thynke to do when I com to London to ſpek w^t my Lord [2] Chamb'leyn and to wynne by hys meanys my Lord of [3] Ely if I can and if I may by eny of ther meanys cauſe the Kyng to take my ſervyſe and my [4] quarrell to gedyrs I wyll and I thynk that S^r. George [5] Brown S^r. Jamys Radclyff and other of myn aqueyntance whyche wayte moſt upon the Kyng and lye nyghtly in hys [6] Chamber wyll put to ther good wyllys thys is my wey as yet. And Modyr I beſeche yow as ye may get or ſend eny meſſengers to ſend me yo^r avyſe and my coſyn Lomeners to John Leeis hows Taylere w^t in Ludgate. I have myche more to wryght but myn Empty hed wyll not let me remēbre it.

Alſo Modyr I prey that my brodyr Edmōd may ryd to Marlȳgforthe Oxenhed Paſton Crowmer and Caſt' and all thes maners to entre in my name and to lete the tenāts of Oxenhed and Marlyngfor know that I ſent no word to hym to take no mony of theym but ther attornement wherfor hē wyll not tyll he her fro me ayen axe hem non but lete hym comand theym to pay to Servñts of myn oncles nor to hymſylff nor to non othyr to hys uſe in peyne of payment ayen to me I thynk if ther ſhold be eny money axid in my name p'aventure it wold

[2] William, Lord Haſtyngs.

[3] John Morton, afterwards Archbiſhop of Canterbury, and Lord Chancellor.

[4] This muſt relate to his Diſpute with the Ducheſs of Norfolk, relative to Caiſter, or to ſome Diſputes with his Uncle William Paſton, concerning other Manors and Eſtates.

make

and him together, but that purpoſe is void as now; but this I think to do when I come to London, to ſpeak with my Lord [2] Chamberlain, and to win by his means my Lord of [3] Ely if I can; and if I may, by any of their means, cauſe the King to take my ſervice and my [4] quarrel together, I will; and I think that Sir George [5] Brown, Sir James Radcliff, and others of mine acquaintance, which wait moſt upon the King, and lie nightly in his [6] Chamber, will put to their good wills: this is my way as yet.

And Mother, I beſeech you, as ye may get or ſend any meſſengers, to ſend me your advice and my Couſin Lomenor's, to John Lee's houſe, Taylor, within Ludgate.

I have much more to write, but my empty head will not let me remember it.

Alſo Mother I pray that my brother Edmund may ride to Marlingford, Oxnead, Paſton, Cromer, and Caiſter, and in all theſe Manors to enter in my name, and to let the Tenants of Oxnead and Marlingford know, that I ſent no word to him to take no money of them, but their Attornment; wherefore he will not till he hear from me again aſk them none, but let him command them to pay to Servants of mine Uncle, nor to himſelf, nor to none other to his uſe, in pain of payment again to me; I think if there ſhould be any money aſked in my name, peradventure it would make my Lady of Norfolk againſt

[5] Of Beechworth Caſtle, in Surry; he aſſiſted the Duke of Buckingham, in 1484.

[6] Theſe ſeem to have been the "Eſquires of the King's Body," who lay in his Chamber.

make my Lady of Norf' aȳnſt me and cauſe hyr to thynk I dellt more contrary to hyr pleſure than dyd my brodyr whom God p'don of hys gret mercy. I have ſent to entre at Stanſted and at Orwellbery and I have wretyn a bylle to Anne Montgomery and Jane Rodon to make my Lady of Norff' if it wyll be.

Yo^{r} Sone and humble Servñt,

J. Paſton.

11 ¾ by 6 ¼.

me, and cauſe her to think I dealt more contrary to her pleaſure than did my brother, whom God pardon of his great mercy!

I have ſent to enter at Stanſted and at Orwellbury; and I have written a bill to Anne Montgomery and Jane Rodon, to make my Lady of Norfolk if it will be.

Your Son, and humble Servant,

JOHN PASTON.

November, 1479.
19 E. IV.

ORIGI-

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

APPENDIX.

EDWARD IV.

1460 - - - - - 1483.

Dates uncertain.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

LETTER J.

To myryth worchepfull huſbond John Paſton be y^e^ delyu'yd in haſt.

PLESYTH yow to wete y^t^ John Wellys and hys brodyr told me thys nyth y^t^ the Kyng lay at Cambryge as yeſtyrs nyth to Sandwyche ward for ther is gret dyvyſyen be twyx the Lordys and the Schypmen ther that cauſyth hym to goo thedyr to ſe a remedye therfor.

I thank God that John Paſton yed non erſtforthe for I truſt to God all ſchall be do er he comyth and it is told me that Syr John Howard is lek to leſe hys hed.

If it pleſe yow to ſend to the ſeyd Wellys he ſchall ſend yow mor tydyngys than I'may wryt at thys tyme.

God have yow in hys kepyng. Wretyn in haſt at Thetford at xj of the clok in y^e^ nyth the ſame day I dep'tyd fro yow. I thank Pampyng of hys good wyll and them y^t^ wer cauſe of changyng of my hors for they ded me a bettyr torne

The tidings contained in this Letter, Margaret Paſton (Pl. 11. N° 25.) thought of ſufficient conſequence, as her Son appears to have been on his way to join theſe forces, to ſend in a Letter to her huſband, though ſhe had left him only that day.

than

EDWARD IV.

LETTER I.

To my right worſhipful huſband, John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

PLEASETH you to weet, that John Welles and his brother told me this night, that the King lay at Cambridge as yeſter night to Sandwich ward, for there is great diviſion betwixt the Lords and the Shipmen there, that cauſeth him to go thither, to ſee a remedy therefore.

I thank God that John Paſton went not earlier forth, for I truſt to God all ſhall be done ere he cometh; and it is told me that Sir John Howard is like to loſe his head.

If it pleaſe you to ſend to the ſaid Welles, he ſhall ſend you more tidings than I may write at this time.

God have you in his keeping.

Written in haſte at Thetford, at 11 of the clock in the night the ſame day I departed fro you.

I thank Pampyng of his good will, and them that were (*the*) cauſe of changing of my horſe; for they did me a better turn

This Letter was written before 1466, for in that year her Huſband, J. Paſton, died.

than I wend they had do and I ſchall aquyt them anothyr day and I maye.

Bp yor M. P.

10 ½ by 4.

LETTER IV.

To my Right truſty ffrend John Paſton Squier.

TRUSTY and Welbeloved frend I grete you wele And for as much as hit is don me to underſtande that there is a greet ſtraungeneſſe betwix my Right truſty frend [1] John Radcliff and you withoute any matier or cauſe of ſubſtaunce as I am lerned Wherfore in as much as I love you wele bothe I am not content hit ſhulde ſo be.

Praying you hertly to forbere the ſaid ſtraungeneſſe on yor p'tie to ſuche tyme as I ſpeke with you next my ſelf leting you wite I have wreten to him to do the ſame And that ye faile not herof as I may do any thing for you herafter And or lorde have you in his keping. Wretin at London the x day of ffeurier.

[2] Cromwell.

9 ½ by 5.

This Letter ſhews the friendly diſpoſition of the Lord Cromwell, and ſeems to hint his ſuſpicions, that ſome diſagreeable circumſtance might attend this ſtrangeneſs, if both parties did not obey his injunctions.

[1] John Radcliff was afterwards Lord Fitzwalter.

than I wend they had done, and I ſhall acquit [*requite*] them another day and I may.

By your MARGARET PASTON.

Thetford,
Before 1466,
6 E. IV.

LETTER II.

To my Right truſty Friend, John Paſton, Eſquire.

TRUSTY and well beloved Friend, I greet you well, and for as much as it is done me to underſtand that there is a great ſtrangeneſs betwixt my Right truſty friend [1] John Radcliff and you, without any matter or cauſe of ſubſtance, as I am learned. Wherefore in as much as I love you well both, I am not content it ſhould ſo be.

Praying you heartily to forbear the ſaid ſtrangeneſs on your part, to ſuch time as I ſpeak to you next myſelf, letting you weet, I have written to him to do the ſame. And that ye fail not hereof, as I may do any thing for you hereafter.

And our Lord have you in his keeping. Written at London the 10th day of February.

[2] CROMWELL.

London,
10th of February, E. IV.

[2] Humphrey Bourchier, Lord Cromwell, was third Son of Henry, Earl of Eſſex; and marrying Joanna, coheireſs of Maud, Siſter of Ralph, Lord Cromwell, had ſummons to parliament as Baron Cromwell, in 1461, 1 E. IV. Pl. IV. N° 8.
This Letter therefore was written in this reign.

LETTER VII.

On to Jan Paſton in haſt'.

MASTYR Paſton I pray yow y^{t} it may pleſe yow to [1] leue yowr logeyng for iij or for days tyll I may be [2] porved of anodyr and I ſchal do as muſche to yowr pleſyr, for Godys ſake ſay me not nay and I pray yow rekomaund me to my lord [3] Chambyrleyn.

Yowr Frend Elizabeth.

9 by 4 ¼.

The whole of this Letter, of which, for its curioſity, I have had a Fac Simile engraved (See Pl. xv. xvi. N° 2, 3.), is written by Elizabeth, third Daughter of Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, and Cecily, Daughter of Ralph Neville, Earl of Weſtmoreland.

She was Siſter to Edward IV. and Richard III. by the latter of whom her Son, John Earl of Lincoln (after the Death of his own Son), was declared heir to the Crown.

She married John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, and lies buried with him in Wingfield Church in Suffolk. Pl. iv. N° 2.

Under the Direction is written (I believe) in the hand of Sir John Paſton . . . "Littrā Duciſſe Suff'.

If ſo, this Letter was written in the reign of Edward IV. for Sir John died in 1479, 19 E. IV. But if this memorandum be the hand writing of Sir John Paſton's brother, then this Letter might be written in the reign of Richard III. or even of Henry VII.

[1] Leue, or lend—I believe it is leve, but it is ſo written, that it is very difficult to determine.

[2] Porved, purveyed.

LET-

LETTER III.

Unto John Paſton, in haſte.

MASTER Paſton, I pray you, that it may pleaſe you to [1] leave your Lodging for three or four days, till I may be [2] *purveyed* of another, and I ſhall do as much to your pleaſure; for God's ſake, ſay me not nay, and I pray you recommend me to my Lord [3] Chamberlain.

Your Friend ELIZABETH.

E. IV.

[3] William, Lord Haſtyngs, was Lord Chamberlain to Edward IV. the Seal is octangular, the impreſſion a Roſe. Pl. XIV. N° 26.

The curioſity of this Letter conſiſts in the rank of the Lady, and in being perhaps the only one extant of her writing.

It ſhews likewiſe the ſimplicity of the times, when a Princeſs of the Blood royal coming to London unprovided of a Lodging, petitions for the uſe of that of a Friend for a few days, in the humbleſt terms; "for Godys ſake ſay me not nay."

As to exterior form, this is rather a note than a Letter, being only folded, without turning in the edges of the paper. A ſilken twine had been paſſed through every fold of it, the ends of which were afterwards united, and ſecured under the ſeal. The punctures made by the inſertion of the ſilk, are repreſented in the Fac Simile of this curious billet, as are likewiſe the folds.

The Direction ſeems not to be in the hand of the Lady Elizabeth, but of ſome Secretary in attendance on her. Perhaps ſhe did not chooſe to truſt him with the ſingularity of her requeſt, but employed him only to ſuperſcribe it.

LETTER III.

To Maſtreſſe Annes.

SYTHE it is ſo that I may not as oft as I wold be ther as I might do my meſſage myſelff, myn owne fayir Maſtreſſe Annes I prey yow to accept thys byll for my meſſanger to recomand me to yow in my moſt feythfull wyſe as he that fayneſt of all other deſyreth to knowe of yowr welfare whyche I prey God encreſſe to your moſt pleſure.

And Maſtreſſe thow ſo be that I as yet have govyn yow bot eaſy cauſe to remembyr me for leke of aqweȳtacōn yet I beſeche yow let me not be forgotyn when ye rekyn up all yowr Servñts to be ſett in the nombyr w^t^ other.

And I prey yow Maſtreſſe Annes for that ſervyſe that I owe yow that in as ſhort tyme as ye goodly may that I myght be aſſarteynyd of yowr entent and of your beſt frends in ſyche maters as I have brokyn to yow of whyche bothe your and myn' ryght truſty frends John Lee, or ellys my Maſtreſſe hys wyff promyſyd befor yow and me at our fyrſt and laſt beīg togedyr that as ſone as they or eyther of theym knewe your entent and your frendys that they ſhold ſend me woord And if they ſo do I tryſt ſone aftyr to ſe yow.

This Letter from John Paſton (Pl. IV. N° 9.) to Mrs. Annes or Anne, is either to a Mrs. Anne Haulte, or to ſome Lady abroad at Calais, from which place he was at this time returning.

And

LETTER IV.

To Miſtreſs Anne.

SINCE it is ſo, that I may not as oft as I would be there, as [*that*] I might do my meſſage myſelf, mine own fair Miſtreſs Anne, I pray you to accept this bill for my meſſenger to recommend me to you in my moſt faithful wiſe, as he that faineſt [*moſt anxiouſly*] of all other deſireth to know of your welfare, which I pray God increaſe to your moſt pleaſure.

And Miſtreſs, though ſo be, that I as yet have given you but eaſy [*little*] cauſe to remember me for lack of acquaintance, yet I beſeech you let me not be forgotten, when ye reckon up all your Servants, to be ſet in the number with others.

And I pray you, Miſtreſs Anne, for that ſervice that I owe you, that in as ſhort time, as ye goodly may, that I might be aſcertained of your intent, and of your beſt Friends, in ſuch matters as I have broken to you of; which both your and mine right truſty Friends John Lee, or elſe my Miſtreſs his Wife, promiſed before you and me at our firſt and laſt being together, that as ſoon as they, or either of them knew your intent, and your Friends, that they ſhould ſend me word, and if they ſo do, I truſt ſoon after to ſee you.

His ſaying "I am prowd that ye can reed Inglyſhe," ſeems to imply that ſome other language was her native one; and therefore ſhe was moſt probably ſome foreign Lady.

And

And now farewell myn owne fayir Lady and God geve yow good reſt for in feythe I trow ye be in bed.

Wretyn in my wey homward on Mary Maudeleyn day at mydnyght.

Your owne,

John Paſton.

Maſtreſſe Annes I am prowd that ye can reed Inglyſhe wherfor I prey yow aqweynt yow w^t^ thys my lewd hand for my purpoſe is that ye ſhalbe more aqweyntyd w^t^ it or ellys it ſhalbe ayenſt my wyll but yet and when ye have red thys byll I prey yow brenne it or kepe it ſecret to yourſylff as my feythefull truſt is in yow.

12 ½ by 5 ½.

LETTER II.

To my right truſty and welbeloved S'vn't John Paſton Squier.

JOHN PASTON I recomāunde me unto you. And whereas I appointed and deſired you to goo over unto Guyſnes to yeve youre attendaunce and aſſiſtaunce upon my brother S^r^. Rauf Haſtings in all ſuche things as concerne the ſuretie and defenſe of the Caſtell of Guyſnes during his infirmyties. It is ſhewed

unto

And now farewell, mine own fair Lady, and God give you good reſt, for in faith I trow ye be in bed.

Written in my way homeward, on Mary Magdalen's day at Midnight.

Your own,

JOHN PASTON.

Miſtreſs Anne, I am proud that ye can read Engliſh, wherefore I pray you acquaint you with this my lewd [*uncouth*] hand, for my purpoſe is, that ye ſhall be more acquainted with it, or elſe it ſhall be againſt my will; but yet and when ye have read this bill, I pray you burn it, or keep it ſecret to yourſelf, as my faithful truſt is in you.

22d of July,
St. Mary Magdalen.

LETTER V.

To my right truſty and well-beloved Servant, John Paſton, Eſquire.

JOHN PASTON, I recommend me unto you. And whereas I appointed and deſired you to go over unto Guiſnes to give your attendance and aſſiſtance upon my brother Sir Ralph Haſtings in all ſuch things as concern the ſurety and defence of the Caſtle of Guiſnes during his infirmities; it is ſhewed unto me

unto me that ye have full truely and diligently acquyted you unto my ſaide Brother in all his beſyneſſes ſithe your comyng thider Whereof I thanke you hertly. And as I conceive to my grete comfort and gladneſſe my ſaide brother is wele recov'ed and amended thanked be God. And ſoo I truſte he may nowe ſpare you. Wherupon I have writen unto him, if he may ſoo doo, to licence you to come over unto me ayen. Wherefore I woll and deſire you thaſſent of my ſaide brother had, to diſpoſe you to come over in all goodly haſte as well for ſuche grete maters as I fele by youre ffrends ye have to doo here, as to yeve youre attendaunce upon me. And your retourne ye ſhall be to me welcome, ffrom london the xxvj day of Aurill.

* I pȳ you in no wiſe to dep't as yet w'out my brother Roaf aſent and agremet' and recomaūd me to my Syſt' all my necs to y^e^ Conſtabell and to all Ryues.

Y^r^ tru frend,

[a] Haſtyngs.

8 ½ by 5 ½.

Paper Mark,
Part of an Animal, Pl. XII. N° 2.
The other part is cut off.

XI.

* This Letter as far as "xxvj day of Aurill," is written by the Secretary of the Lord Haſtyngs, from thence to the end by that Nobleman himſelf, in a hand almoſt illegible, of which that the reader may judge for himſelf, a Fac-Simile is repreſented on Pl. XVI. N° 4.

John Paſton appears here to have been in the ſervice of, and ſo highly reſpected by the Lord Haſtyngs, as to be ſent as a kind of Deputy Governor of the Caſtle of Guiſnes, during the illneſs of his Brother Sir Ralph Haſtyngs.

The ſtyle and manner of ſpelling in this Letter, differ ſo little from the modern, that it is ſcarcely poſſible to conceive that it ſhould have been written above 300 years agone, and

that ye have full truly and diligently acquitted you unto my ſaid Brother, in all his Buſineſſes ſince your coming thither. Whereof I thank you heartily. And as I conceive to my great comfort and gladneſs, my ſaid brother is well recovered and amended, thanked be God. And ſo I truſt he may now ſpare you. Whereupon I have written unto him, if he may ſo do, to licence you to come over unto me again. Wherefore I will and deſire you, the aſſent of my ſaid brother had, to diſpoſe you to come over in all goodly haſte, as well for ſuch great matters, as I feel by your Friends, ye have to do here, as to give your attendance upon me. And *(at)* your return, you ſhall be to me welcome. From London, the 26th day of April.

* I pray you in no wiſe to depart as yet, without my brother Roaf's [*Ralph's*] aſſent and agreement; and recommend me to my Siſter, all my Nieces, to the Conſtable, and to all Reeves.

Your true Friend,

[1] HASTYNGS.

London,
26th of April,
147—, E. IV.

and though the Letter itſelf contains no remarkable circumſtance, yet being the private Letter of a man ſo well known in our Hiſtory, it muſt be eſteemed a great curioſity.

[1] William Haſtyngs, Lord Haſtyngs, was ſummoned to parliament in 1461, 1 E. IV. He was Lieutenant of Calais, and enjoyed ſeveral High Offices of Truſt and Confidence, in the reign of Edward IV.—He married Catharine, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury, and was beheaded in the Tower, by the inſtant order of Richard, Duke of Glouceſter, on the 13th of June, 1483. Pl. IV. N° 7.

XJ.

The Inventory off Englyſshe Boks off John . . . . .
made y^e v daye of Novembr A^o. RR E iiij . . . .

1 A Boke had off myn Oſteſſe at y^e George . . .
off *y^e Dethe off Arthr begynyng at Caſſab* . . . .
Warwyk Kyng Ri cur de lyon a Cronic . . . .
to Edwarde y^e iij^e. ptec. . . . .

2 It'm a Boke off Troylus whyche Will'm Bra . . . .
hathe hadde neer x yer and lent it to Dame . . . .
Wyngfelde and ibi ego vidi. valet . . . . . .

3 It' a blak Boke w^t *the Legende off Lad* . . . .
ſaunce m'cye y^e Parlement off Byrd . . . . . .
Glaſſe Palatyſe and Scitacus the me . . . . .
the Greene Knyght valet . . . . .

4 It' a Boke in preente off the Pleye off y^e . . . . .

5 It' a Boke lent Midēlton and therin is *Bele Da* . . . .
mercy y^e P'lement off Byrds Balade . . . . .

We are here furniſhed with a curious, though imperfect, Catalogue of the Library of a Gentleman in the reign of Edward IV.

It is written on a ſtrip of paper about ſeventeen inches long, and has been rolled up, by which means one end having been damp, is entirely decayed, ſo that the Names of ſome of the Books are imperfect, and the then price or value of all of them is not now to be diſcovered, that having been uniformly written at the end, which is now deſtroyed.

It contained an Account of all the Books he had, as it mentions thoſe which were lent out at the time the Catalogue was made; and though the Name of the Owner is gone, yet by comparing the Liſt with the Account of William Ebeſham, in Letter XXV. it fixes it to the Library of John Paſton.

VI.

The Inventory of Engliſh Books, of John Paſton, made the 5th day of November, in the . . . year of the reign of Edward IV.

1. A Book had of my Hoſteſs at the George,
of the Death of Arthur, beginning at Caſſibelan
Guy Earl of Warwick
King Richard Cœur de Lyon
a Chronicle to Edward the III. price.
2. Item, a Book of Troilus, which William Br . . . .
hath had near ten years, and lent it to Dame . . . .
Wyngfeld, and there I ſaw it . . . worth
3. Item, a black Book, with the Legend of [1] Lad . . .
Lady ſans Mercy.
The Parliament of Birds.
The Temple of Glaſs.
Palatyſe and Scitacus.
The Meditations of . . . .
The Green Knight . . . worth
4. Item, a Book in print of the Play of . . . .
5. Item, a Book lent Midelton, and therein is
Belle Dame ſans Mercy.
The Parliament of Birds.

It contained only one Book in print, the reſt being Manuſcripts, and appear to have been bound together, as numbered 1, 2, 3, &c. in the Inventory.

An Account of moſt of the Books mentioned is to be found in Mr. Warton's "Hiſtory of Engliſh Poetry," and ſome of them, when afterwards printed in Mr. Herbert's improved Edition of Ames's "Hiſtory of Printing;" to theſe, therefore, I refer the Reader.

I have given the Arabic Figures as here repreſented, at Pl. VI. N° 31, the forms of 3, 4, 5 and 7, varying from thoſe now uſed.

[1] May not the chaſm be thus ſupplied? *The Legende off Ladys, and la bele Dame*, as la bele Dame ſaunce m'cye is never called by the name of Legend in any edition of Chaucer that I have ſeen.

off Guy and Colbronde off the goos y . . . . .
y^e Dyſputſon bytwyen Hope and Dyſpeyr . . . . .
Marchaunts y^e Lyffe off Seynt Cry . . . . . .
6 A reede Boke y^t P'cyvall Robſart gaff m . . . . .
off y^e medis off y^e maſſe y^e Lamentacon . . . .
off Chylde Ypotis a preyer to y^e vernyclr . . . .
callyd *the Abbeye off y^e Holy Gooſt* . . . . .
7 It' in qȳers. Tully de Senectute in . . . . .
wheroff ther is no mor cleer wretyn . .
8 It' in quayers Tully or [2] cypio [3] de Ami . . . . .
leffte w^t Will'm Worceſt' valet . . .
9 It', in qwayers a Boke off y^e Polecye of In . . . .
10 It' in qwayers a Boke de Sapiencia . . . .
wherin y^e ij parſon is liknyd to Sapi . . . . .
11 It' a Boke de [4] Othea text and gloſe valet . . . .
in quayers.

Paper Mark,
A Unicorn. Pl. XII. N° 23.
N. B. A part of it only remains, the paper being one half of a ſheet cut down the middle.

M^d. myn olde Boke off Blaſonyngs off a . . . . .
It' the nywe Boke portrayed and blaſoned.
It' a Copy off Blaſonyngs off Armys and th . . .
names to be fownde by lett'.
It' a Boke w^t Armys portrayed in paper . . .
M^d. my Boke off Knyghthod and the man . . . .
off makyng off Kyghts, off Juſts off Tor . . .

[2] Quære, if Cypio is not a miſtake from "Somnium Scipionis," a piece which uſually printed with the "de Amicitiâ," and probably accompanied it in this manuſcript.

[3] It is a curious circumſtance that this book ſhould be here mentioned as left with William Worceſter, who, with the aſſiſtance of John Tiptoft, Earl of Worceſter, and [illegible] Phrea, or Free, a Monk of Briſtol, tranſlated it.

ffyght,

Ballad of Guy and Colbrond,
. . . of the Gooſe, the . . .
The Diſputation between Hope and Deſpair.
. . . . . Merchants.
The Life of Saint Chryſtopher.

6. A red Book that Percival Robſart gave me;
of the Meeds of the Maſs.
The Lamentation of Child Ipotis.
A Prayer to the Vernicle,
called the Abbey of the Holy Ghoſt.

7. Item, in quires, Tully de Senectute in
whereof there is no more clear writing.

8. Item, in quires, Tully or [2] Cypio (*Scipio*) [3] de Amicitia,
left with William Worceſter . . . . worth

9. Item, in quires, a Book of the Policy of In . . . .

10. Item, in quires, a Book de Sapientiâ,
wherein the ſecond perſon is likened to Sapience.

11. Item, a Book de [4] Othea [*Wiſdom*] text and gloſs, worth
in quires . . . . . .

Memorandum; mine old Book of Blazonings of Arms.
Item, the new Book portrayed and blazoned.
Item, a Copy of Blazonings of Arms, and the
names to be found by Letter [*alphabetically*].
Item, a Book with Arms portrayed in paper.
Memorandum; my Book of Knighthood; and the manner
of making of Knights; of Juſts, of Tournaments;

[4] This Book "de Othea," is a poetical Epiſtle (if I remember right) from Hector to Othea, probably Minerva or Wiſdom, who is addreſſed in the Iliad frequently by the title of Ω Θεα; this circumſtance is laid hold of by ſome French Antiquary (for the original of this book is in French), to prove that Greek was underſtood in France earlier than is uſually imagined.

fighting

ffyghtyng in Lyſtys paces holden by So . . . .
and chalengs, Statuts off Weer and de regim . . .
valet . . . .
It' a Boke off nyw Statuts ffrom Edward the iiij.

4 ½ by 17.

LETTER VII.

Verſes written by a Lady in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV. To an abſent Lord with whom ſhe was in love.

MY ryght good Lord moſt knyghtly gentyll Knyght
On to yo^{r} grace in my moſt humbyll wyſe
I me comand as it is dew and ryght
Beſechyng yow at leyſer to * advyſe
Upon thys byll and p'don myn empryſe
Growndyd on foly for lak of provydence
On to yo^{r} Lordſhep to wryght w^{t} owght lycence.

" But wher a man is w^{t} a fevyr ſhake
Now hot now cold as fallyth by aventure
He in hys mynd conjecte wyll and take

fighting in Liſts; paces holden by Soldiers;
Challenges; Statutes of War; and de Regimine
Principum. . . . . worth
Item, a Book of new Statutes from Edward the IV.

5th of November, E. IV.

LETTER VII.

Verſes written by a Lady in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV. To an abſent Lord with whom ſhe was in love.

MY right good Lord, moſt knightly gentle Knight,
Unto your Grace, in my moſt humble wiſe,
I me commend, as it is due and right,
Beſeeching you at leiſure to *adviſe
Upon this bill, and pardon mine emprize
Grounded on Folly, for lack of providence,
Unto your Lordſhip to write without Licence.

But when a man is with a fever ſhake
Now hot, now cold, as falleth by adventure,
He in his mind conjecture will, and take

* Conſider—reflect.

The nygheſt meane to [1] worche hys cuyre
More pacyently hys peynys to endure
And ryght ſo I ſo it yow not dyſpleaſe
Wryght in thys wyſe my peynys to apeaſe.

" For when I cownt and mak a reknȳg
Betwyx my lyfe my dethe and my deſyer
My lyfe alas it ſervyth of no thyng
Sythe w^t. yo^r p'tyng depertyd my [2] pleſyer
Wyſhyng you^r p'ſence ſetyth me on fyer
But then yo^r abſence dothe my hert ſo cold
That for the peyne I [3] not me wher to hold.

O owght on Abſence ther foolys have no grace
I mene myſylf nor yet no wytt to [3] gwye
Theym owt of peyne to com on to that place
Wher as preſence may ſhape a remedye
For al dyſeaſe now fye on my folye
For I dyſpeyryd am of yo^r ſoone metyng
That God I prey me to yo^r p'ſence bryng.

Farwell

Theſe Verſes are inſerted as a ſpecimen of the Poetry of a Lady, ſent as a Letter to a Nobleman, who was abſent from her, and for whom ſhe appears to have had a ſincere affection.

The Thoughts contained in them are, many of them, natural and tender, and ſome of them pretty and affecting.

They are certainly originals, as in ſeveral places the words firſt written are ſtruck out, and words more to the writer's ſatisfaction inſerted above them—thus the 6th line in the fifth Stanza, was originally written,

" Er

The nigheſt mean to [1]work his cure,
More patiently his pains to endure;
And right ſo I, ſo it you not diſpleaſe,
Write in this wiſe my pains to appeaſe.

For when I count and make a reckoning,
Betwixt my life, my death, and my deſire,
My life, alas! it ſerveth of nothing,
Since with your parting, departed my [2]pleaſure;
Wiſhing your preſence ſetteth me on fire,
But then your abſence doth my heart ſo cold,
That for the pain, I [3]not me where to hold.

O out on abſence, there Fools have no grace,
I mean myſelf, nor yet no wit to [3]gwye
Them out of pain, to come unto that place;
Where as preſence may ſhape a remedy
For all diſeaſe, now fye on my folly,
For I deſpaired am of your ſoon meeting,
That God I pray, me to your preſence bring.

" Er *then may I* but *thys* ye ſhall not myſſe,"
And then thus altered,
" Er I my ſylf but yett ye ſhall not myſſe,"
Several others have ſimilar alterations.

They were written either in the reign of Henry VI. or Edward IV. the writing and Paper being both of that age, and the paper Mark (a Bull) is uſed upon two other Letters, XXIII. and XXV. in this Collection of the former reign.

[1] Perhaps it may mean watch.

[2] As ſpelt in the Original, pleſyer, it rhimes exactly with deſyer and fyer.

[3] Guide.

Farwell my Lord for I may wryght no more
So trowblyd is my hert w^t^ hevyneſſe
Envye alſo it grewyth me moſt ſore
That thys rude byll ſhall put hym ſylf in [4] preſſe
To ſe yo^r^ Lordſhepe of hys p'ſumptuouſneſſe
Er I my ſylf but yett ye ſhall not myſſe
To have my hert to for my byll I wys.

Whyche I comytt and all my hole ſervyſe
Into yo^r^ hands demeane it as you lyſt
Of it I *kepe to have no more franchyſe
Then I hertleſſe ſwyrly me wyſt
Savȳg only y^t^ it be as [5] tryſt
And to yow trew as evyr was hert and pleyn
Tyll cruell dethe dep't yt up on tweyn.

Adew dyſport farwell good companye
In all thys world ther is no Joye I weene
For ther as whyleom I ſye w^t^ myn iee
A [6] Luſty Lord leepyng upon a grene
The ſoyle is ſoole no knyghts ther be ſeen
No Ladyſe walk ther they wer wont to doone
Alas ſome folk depertyd henſe to ſoone.

[4] Readineſs.
[5] Quære, whether this means *ſorrowful* or *truſty*?

Som'

Farewell my Lord, for I may write no more,
So troubled is my heart with heavineſs;
Envy alſo, it grieveth me moſt ſore,
That this rude bill ſhall put himſelf in [4] preſs,
To ſee your Lordſhip of his preſumptuouſneſs
Ere I myſelf; but yet ye ſhall not miſs
To have my heart tofore my bill, I wis.

Which I commit, and all my whole ſervice
Into your hands, demean it as you liſt,
Of it, I * keep to have no more franchiſe
Than I heartleſs ſurely me wiſt,
Saving only that it be as [5] triſt,
And to you true, as ever was heart, and plain,
Till cruel Death depart it upon twain.

Adieu Diſport, farewell good company,
In all this world there is no joy I ween,
For there as whilom, I ſee with mine eye
A [6] luſty Lord leaping upon a Green,
The ſoil is ſole no Knights there be ſeen,
No Ladies walk there they were wont to done;
Alas! ſome Folk departed hence too ſoon.

[6] Lively, and active in his exerciſes.
* I care.

Some

Som' tyme alſo mē myght a wageor make
And w^t ther bowys a ffeld have it tryed
Or at the [7] Paame ther ther pleſure for to take
Then wer they looſe y^t now ſtand as tyed
I [8] not wher to thys world may be aplyed
For all good cher on evyn and on morow
Whyche then was made now tornyth me to ſorow.

8 ½ by 11 ½.

Paper Mark,
A Bull.
Pl. IX. N° 10.

[7] Some place of reſort for the Game of Tennis. The word *ther* being repeated ſeems a miſtake, as it deſtroys the meaſure of the verſe.

ORIGI-

Some time alſo men might a wager make
And with their Bows afield have it tried,
Or at the [7] Paume their pleaſure for to take,
Then were they looſe, that now ſtand as tied,
I [8] not whereto this world may be applied;
For all good cheer, on even and on morrow,
Which then was made, now turneth me to ſorrow.

[8] I not, for, I wot not; that is, *I know not.*

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

RICHARD III.

1483 - - - - - 1485.
1 - - - - - 3 R. III.

ORIGINAL LETTERS.

LETTER J.

To my right welbeloved frynde John Paſton be this delivred in haſt.

RIGHT welbeloved frynde, I comaunde me to you, It is ſoo that the Kentyſshmen be up in the ſ/Weld, and ſey that they wol com' and Robbe the Cite which I ſhall lett yf I may.

Therefore I pray you that with alle diligence ye make you redy and com hidder, and bring w^t^ you ſix talle felaws in harneſſe, and ye ſhall not lyſe yo^r^ labo^r^, that knoweth God whoo have you in his keping.

Written at London, the x^th^ day of October.

Powr Frend,

[2] J. Norffolk.

Paper Mark,
The Letter G.
Pl. XIII. N° 2.
8 ½ by 4 ½.

This Letter refers to the Commotions excited in different parts of the Kingdom by the Duke of Buckingham, who from diſcontent conſpired againſt Richard. He failed in his enterprize however, and being deſerted by his forces, fled, was treacherouſly betrayed, taken, and beheaded.

RICHARD III.

LETTER I.

To my right well-beloved Friend John Paſton, be this delivered in haſte.

RIGHT well beloved Friend, I commend me to you. It is ſo that the Kentiſhmen be up in the [1] Weld, and ſay that they will come and rob the City, which I ſhall let [*prevent*] if I may.

Therefore I pray you, that, with all diligence, ye make you ready and come hither, and bring with you ſix tall Fellows in harneſs; and ye ſhall not lyſe [*loſe*] your labour, that knoweth God, who have you in his keeping.

Written at London, the 10th day of October.

Your Friend,

[2] J. NORFOLK.

London,
Friday, 10th of October,
1483, 1 R. III.

[1] The Welds, or Wealds, in Kent, are the woody, and the Wolds are the open parts of that County.

[2] John, Lord Howard (deſcended from Margaret, Daughter and Coheir of Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk), was created Duke of Norfolk, in 1483, 1 R. III. and was ſlain at the battle of Boſworth, in 1485. Pl. VII. N° 4.

LETTER II.

The Duc of Suff
To Thomas Jeffreys or ffermor of Maundevills greting.

WE wole and ſtreitly charge you that ye content and paie unto the bringr herof for money imployed in or houſhold thre pound threttenne ſhillings and foure pens for ſuch ſtuff as we or owne p'ſon have p'myſed and not to be failed upon or worſhip.

Of ye which ſome of lxxiijs iiijd ſo by you contented and paied we wole and alſo ſtretly charge or Auditors for the tyme being by vrtu of this or writing, ſigned wt or hand to make you dew and pleyn allowaunce at yor next accompt.

At Wingfeld the firſt day of May in the firſt yer of Kyng Richard ye IIIde.

Suffolk, and ffaple not on peyn
loſp'g off por ffeerme.

7½ by 3¼.
Paper Mark,
Hand and Star.
Pl. XIII. N° 4.

We have here an order of the Duke of Suffolk upon a Tenant, for the payment of a ſum of money, which the Duke had promiſed on his honour ſhould be paid.

This is a common occurrence, and certainly not worth recording, if it had not been for the threat at the end of it, under his own hand, which ſhews the deſpotiſm of the Duke, and that the farm was let at will, and not on leaſe.

LET-

LETTER II.

The Duke of Suffolk,
To Thomas Jeffreys, Farmer of Maundevill's, greeting.

WE will and ſtraitly charge you, that ye content and pay unto the Bringer hereof, for money employed in our Houſehold, three pounds thirteen ſhillings and four pence, for ſuch ſtuff as we our own perſon have promiſed, and not to be failed, upon our worſhip.

Of the which ſum of 73*s.* and 4*d.* ſo by you contented and paid, we will, and alſo ſtraitly charge our Auditors for the time being, by virtue of this our writing, ſigned with our hand, to make you due and plain [*full*] allowance at your next account.

At Wingfield, the firſt day of May, in the firſt year of King Richard the III.

SUFFOLK, and fail not on pain (*of*)

loſing of your Farm.

Wingfield,
Saturday, 1ſt of May,
1484, 1 R. III.

John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, married Elizabeth, Siſter of Edward IV. and Richard III. and was father of John, Earl of Lincoln, whom Richard declared Heir to the Crown.

This Duke died in 1491, and was buried at Wingfield, in Suffolk, where the principal entrance-front of his Caſtle ſtill remains entire. Pl. VII. N° 3.

LET-

LETTER III.

On the back of the Paper in an ancient hand is written,

Kent Cherfys.

Cop' Lrē R^s R. iij p'ſuaden' ſubditos ſuos ad reſiſtendu' Henr' Tydder poſtea Regem Anglie ac declaran' a quo idem Henr' deſcendebat.

R. R. R'cus etc, Salt'm, Precipimus tibi, &c.

FORASMOCHE as the Kyng our Sou'eign Lord hath certeyn knowlege that Piers Biſshop of [1] Exeter Jaſper [2] Tydder ſon of Owen Tydder callyng hymſelf Erle of Pembroke John late Erle of [3] Oxon and S^r. Edward [4] Wodevyle with other dyv^rs his rebelles and traytours diſabled and atteynted by the auctorite of the High Court of Parlement of whom many be knowen for open murdrers advoutrers and extorcioners contrȳ to the pleaſure of God and a yenſt all trouth hono^r and nature have forſakyn there naturall contrey takyng them firſt to bē under thobeiſaunce of the Duke of [5] Bretayn and to hym p'myſed certeyn thyngs whiche by him and his counſell were thought

This Addreſs of King Richard to his People, is drawn up in the moſt artful manner, in order to inflame the minds, not only of the Multitude, but of the Peers, Biſhops, Dignitaries, and great men, and to induce them to reſiſt the attempts of the Earl of Richmond upon the Crown with all their power.

[1] Peter Courtney, Biſhop of Exeter, after the miſcarriage of the Duke of Buckingham's Conſpiracy, fled into Bretagne, to the Earl of Richmond, who, after he became Henry VII. promoted this Prelate to the See of Wincheſter, in 1486, in which he died in 1492.

thynggs

LETTER III.

On the back of the Paper in an ancient hand is written,

Kent Sheriffs.

The Copy of a Letter of King Richard III. perſuading his Subjects to reſiſt Henry Tydder [Tudor] *afterwards King of England, and declaring from whom the ſaid Henry was deſcended.*

RICHARD R.

Richard, &c. wiſheth health, we command you, &c.

FORASMUCH as the King, our Sovereign Lord, hath certain knowledge that Piers, Biſhop of [1] Exeter, Jaſper [2] Tydder [*Tudor*], Son of Owen Tydder, calling himſelf Earl of Pembroke, John, late Earl of [3] Oxford, and Sir Edward [4] Wodevile, with others diverſe, his Rebels and Traitors, diſabled and attainted by the authority of the High Court of Parliament, of whom many be known for open Murderers, Advowterers [*Adulterers*], and Extortioners, contrary to the pleaſure of God, and againſt all truth, honour and nature, have forſaken their natural country, taking them firſt to be under the obeyſance of the Duke of [5] Bretagne and to him promiſed certain things, which by him and his Council, were thought things

[2] Jaſper Tudor de Hatfield, half brother to Henry VI. created Duke of Bedford in 1485.

[3] John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, who had eſcaped from the Caſtle of Hammes.

[4] Sir Edward Wodevile, brother to the Queen of Edward IV.

[5] Francis II. the laſt Duke of Bretagne, was overthrown by Charles VIII. King of France, and died in 1488.

too

thynggs to gretly unnaturall and abominable for them to g'unt obſerve kepe and p'fourme and therfore the ſame utterly refuſed.

The ſeid Traytours ſeyng the ſeid Duke and his Counſell wolde not aide nor ſocour theym ner folowe there weyes privily dep'ted outē of his contrey in to Fraunce and there takyng theym to be under the obeiſaunce of the Kynggs auncient enemy [6]Charlys callyng hymſelf Kyng of Fraunce and to abuſe and blynde the comons of this ſeid Realme the ſeid rebelles and traitours have choſyn to be there Capteyn one Henry [7] Tydder Son of Edmond Tydder ſon of Owen Tydder whiche of his ambicioneſs and inſociable covetiſe encrocheth and uſurpid upon hym the name and title of royall aſtate of this realme of Englond where unto he hath no man^r int^reſt right title or colo^r as ev^ry man wele knoweth for he is diſcended of baſtard blood bothe of ffather ſide and of mother ſide for the ſeid Owen the g'unfader was baſtard borne and his moder was doughter unto John Duke of Som^rſet ſon unto John Erle of Som^rſet ſone unto Dame Kat'yne Swynford and of ther indouble [8] Avoutry gotyn wherby it evidently apperith that no title can nor may in hym which fully entendeth to entre this reame p'poſyng a conqueſt and if he ſhulde atcheve his fals entent and p'poſe ev^ry man is lif livelod and goddes ſhulde be in his hands lib^rte and diſpoſicon wherby ſholde enſue the diſheretyng and diſtruccion of all the noble and worſhipfull blode of this reame for ev^r and to the

[6] Charles VIII. aſcended the throne in 1483, and died in 1498.

[7] Henry Tudor, Earl of Richmond, who, in 1483, became King of England, &c. by the title of Henry VII. He died in 1509.

too greatly unnatural and abominable, for them to grant, obſerve, keep, and perform, and therefore the ſame utterly refuſed.

The ſaid Traitors ſeeing the ſaid Duke and his Council would not aid nor ſuccour them nor follow their ways, privily departed out of his Country into France, and there taking them to be under the obeyſance of the King's ancient Enemy, [6] Charles, calling himſelf King of France, and to abuſe and blind the Commons of this ſaid Realm, the ſaid Rebels and Traitors have choſen to be their Captain one Henry [7] Tydder [*Tudor*], Son of Edmund Tydder, ſon of Owen Tydder, which of his ambitious and inſatiable covetiſe [*Covetouſneſs*] encroacheth and uſurpeth upon him, the name and title of Royal Eſtate of this realm of England; whereunto he hath no manner of intereſt, right, title or colour, as every man well knoweth; for he is deſcended of baſtard blood, both of father's ſide, and of mother's ſide; for the ſaid Owen the Grandfather, was baſtard born; and his mother was daughter unto John, Duke of Somerſet, ſon unto John, Earl of Somerſet, ſon unto Dame Katherine Swynford, and of their indouble [8] Avoutry gotten; whereby it evidently appeareth, that no title can nor may in him, which fully intendeth to enter this realm, propoſing a conqueſt; and if he ſhould atchieve his falſe intent and purpoſe, every man's life, livelihood, and goods, ſhall be in his hands, liberty, and diſpoſition; whereby ſhould enſue the diſheriting and deſtruction of all the noble and worſhipful blood of this realm for ever, and

[8] This either means double Adultery, that is Adultery on both ſides; or indubitable, undoubted Adultery.

reſiſtence and withſtondyng wherof ev^{r}y true and naturall Engliſh man born muſt ley to his hands for his owen ſuerte and wele And to thentent that the ſeid Henry Tydder myght the rather atcheve his fals intent and p'poſe by the aide ſupporte and aſſiſtence of the Kynggs ſeid auncient enemy of Fraunce hath covenñted and bargayned with hym and all the counſell of Fraunce to geve up and releſe inp'petuite all the right title and cleyme that the Kyng of Englond have had and ought to have to the crowne and reame of Fraunce to gether with the Duchies of Normandy Anjoy and Maygne Gaſcoyn and Guyne Caſcell and townys of Caleys Guyſnes Hammes with the Marches app'teynyng to the ſame and diſcevir and exclude the Armes of Fraunce oute of the Armes of Englond for ev^{r}.

And in more p've and ſhewing of his ſeid p'poſe of conqueſt the ſeid Henry Tidder hath goven as well to dyv^{rs} of the ſeid Kynggs enemys as to his ſeid rebelles and traitours Archebiſſhoprikes Biſshoprikes and other dignitees ſp'uels, and alſo the Ducheez Erledomez Baronyes and other poſſeſſions and inheritaunces of Knyghts Squyres Gentilmen and other the Kynggs true ſubjetts withynne the reame and entendith alſo to chaunge and ſubv^{r}te the lawes of the ſame and to enduce and eſtabliſſe newe lawes and ordeñnes amongez the Kynggs ſeid Subjetts and ov^{r} this and beſide the alienacons of all the p'myſſez into the poſſeſſion of the Kynggs ſeid auncient enemys to the gretteſt *anyntiſshment ſhame and rebuke that ev^{r} myght falle to this ſeid land

to the reſiſtance and withſtanding whereof every true and natural Engliſhman born, muſt lay to his hands for his own ſurety and weal.

And to the intent that the ſaid Henry Tydder might the rather atchieve his falſe intent and purpoſe by the aid, ſupport, and aſſiſtance of the King's ancient enemy of France, (*he*) hath covenanted and bargained with him, and all the Council of France, to give up and releaſe in perpetuity all the right, title, and claim, that the King of England have had, and ought to have, to the Crown and Realm of France, together with the Duchies of Normandy, Anjou and Mayne, Gaſcoign and Guyſnes, Caſſell, and the towns of Calais, Guyſnes, Hammes, with the Marches appertaining to the ſame, and diſſever and exclude the Arms of France out of the Arms of England for ever.

And in more proof and ſhewing, of his ſaid purpoſe of conqueſt, the ſaid Henry Tydder hath goven [*given*], as well to divers of the ſaid King's Enemies, as to his ſaid Rebels and Traitors, Archbiſhopricks, Biſhopricks, and other Dignities ſpiritual; and alſo the Duchies, Earldoms, Baronies, and other Poſſeſſions and Inheritances of Knights, Eſquires, Gentlemen, and other the King's true Subjects within the realm; and intendeth alſo to change and ſubvert the Laws of the ſame, and to enduce [*introduce*] and eſtabliſh new Laws and Ordinances amongſt the King's ſaid ſubjects.

And over this, and beſides the Alienations of all the premiſes into the poſſeſſion of the King's ſaid ancient Enemies, to the greateſt * anyntiſhment [*annihilation*], ſhame, and rebuke, that ever

* Aneantiſement—anientiſed is uſed by Chaucer, in his Tale of Melebeus, for reducing to nothing.

land The ſeid Henry Tydder and others the Kynggs rebelles and traitours aforeſeid have extended at there comyng if they may be of power to do the moſt cruell murdrers ſlaughterys and roberys and diſheriſons that ev^r^ were ſeen in eny criſten Reame ffor the wich and other ineſtymable daungers to be eſcheuved and to thentent that the Kynggs ſeid rebelles traitours and enemys may be utt^r^ly put from there ſeid malicious and fals p'poſe and ſone diſcomforted if they [9] enforce to land The Kyng our Sov^r^aign Lord willith chargeth and comaundith all and ev^r^yche of the naturall and true ſubgetts of this his Reame to call the p'myſſez to there mynds and like gode and true Engliſhmen to endov^r^ themſelfs with all there powers for the defence of them there wifs childeryn and godes and heriditaments ayenſt the ſeid malicious p'poſes and conſpiracons which the ſeid auncient enemes have made with the Kynggs ſeid rebelles and traitours for the fynall diſtruccion of this lande as is aforeſaid. And our ſaid Sov^r^aign Lord as a wele willed diligent and coragious Prynce wel put his mooſt roiall p'ſone to all labo^r^ and payne neceſſary in this behalve for the reſiſtence and ſubdvyng of his ſeid enemys rebells and traitours to the mooſt comforte wele and ſuerte of all his true and feithfull liege men and ſubgetts.

And ov^r^ this our ſeid Sov^r^aign Lord willith and comaundith all his ſeid ſubgetts to be redy in there moſt defenſible arraye to do his highnes ſ^r^vyce of werre when thy be opyn p'clamacion

[9] Or rather, make good their landing by force.

or

might fall to this ſaid land, the ſaid Henry Tydder and others, the King's Rebels and Traitors aforeſaid, have extended [*intended*] at their coming, if they may be of power, to do the moſt cruel murders, ſlaughters, and robberies, and diſheriſons, that ever were ſeen in any Chriſtian Realm.

For the which, and other ineſtimable dangers to be eſchewed, and to the intent that the King's ſaid Rebels, Traitors, and Enemies, may be utterly put from their ſaid malicious and falſe purpoſe and ſoon diſcomforted, if they [9] enforce [*endeavour*] to land,

The King our Sovereign Lord willeth, chargeth, and commandeth, all and every of the natural and true ſubjects of this his Realm, to call the premiſes to their minds, and like good and true Engliſhmen to endower [*furniſh*] themſelves with all their powers for the defence of them, their wives, children, and goods, and hereditaments, againſt the ſaid malicious purpoſes and conſpirations, which the ſaid ancient enemies have made with the King's ſaid Rebels and Traitors, for the final deſtruction of this land, as is aforeſaid.

And our ſaid Sovereign Lord, as a well willed, diligent, and courageous Prince, will put his moſt royal perſon to all labour and pain neceſſary in this behalf, for the reſiſtance and ſubduing of his ſaid enemies, rebels, and traitors, to the moſt comfort, weel, and ſurety of all his true and faithful liege men and ſubjects.

And over this, our ſaid Sovereign Lord willeth and commandeth all his ſaid Subjects, to be ready in their moſt defenſible array, to do his Highneſs ſervice of war, when they by open procla-

or otherwiſe ſhall be comaunded ſo to do for reſiſtence of the Kynggs ſeid rebelles traitours and enemyes.

Et hoc ſub p'iclo, &c.

T me ips' apud Weſtm' xxiij die [10] Junij anno R ñ ſedo.

11 ½ by 9 ½.
Paper Mark,
The Letter P.
Quaterfoil and Bar.
Pl. XIII. N° 1.

[10] Some of our Hiſtorians ſay, that King Richard was proclaimed on the 20th, and others, on the 22d of June 1483; the 23d of June, in the ſecond year of his reign, muſt therefore be in 1484.

LETTER JU.

To o' truſty and welbeloved John Paſton [1] Sheriff of Suff' and Norff'.

The Duc of Suff'.

RIGHT welbeloved we grete you well And for aſmuche as the King o' Sov'eigne Lord hath late addreſſed his Letters of Comiſſion undre his ſeale unto us, reciting by the ſame that his highneſſe undreſtondith certayn his rebells aſſociate to

This being an original Proclamation ſigned by the Duke of Suffolk, in obedience to the King's Commands, I have inſerted it.

And the Paper Mark being ſimilar to that on the paper which contained the Copy of the Proclamation, dated the 23d of June, 1484, 2 R. III. ſhows that that Copy was taken at the time from the Original.

his

proclamation, or otherwiſe ſhall be commanded ſo to do, for reſiſtance of the King's ſaid Rebels, Traitors, and Enemies. And this under peril, &c.

Witneſs myſelf at Weſtminſter, the 23d day of [10] June in the ſecond year of our Reign.

Weſtminſter,
Wedneſday, 23d of June,
1483, 2 R. III.

Autographs, Pl. VII. N°: 1 and 2, are taken from Originals, in the poſſeſſion of Thomas Aſtle, Eſquire.

LETTER IV.

To our truſty and well beloved John Paſton, [1] *Sheriff of Suffolk and Norfolk.*

The Duke of Suffolk.

RIGHT well beloved, we greet you well; and foraſmuch as the King our Sovereign Lord hath late addreſſed his Letters of Commiſſion under his Seal unto us, reciting by the ſame that his Highneſs underſtanding certain of his Rebels,

[1] John Paſton, Eſquire, was Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk on the acceſſion of Henry VII. he moſt probably therefore entered upon that office at Michaelmas, 1484, 2 R. III. this Letter being dated on the 20th of October.

his old Enmys of Scotlond, entending not only to trowble his peax, the nobles and ſubjects of this Realme to deſtroy their goods and poſſeſſions to ſpoill and reward at thair lib'ties. But alſo the lawes of this lond and holy chirche to ſubvert.

Our ſaid mooſt drad Soverayn Lord, as a Criſten Prince [2] . . . . . his ſaid Enmys and Rebels to reſiſt hath aſſigned and comaunded us to do all man^r . . . . . and others defenſible able to labo^r as well Archers as * Hobbyllers, to come before us and charge them . . . . armed and arayed ev^ry man aftre his degre and power to attend uppon his p'ſon and uppon us to do him ſ^rvice in defence as well of the Chirche, as of the ſaid Nobles and ſubjects of this Realm againſt his ſaid Enmys and Rebels. We therfore wull and in our ſaid Sov^reigne Lords name ſtraitly charge and comaunde you that in all poſſible haſt ye do this to be p'clamed. And that all man^r men able to do the King ſ^rvice, as well Knights Eſquiers and Gentlemen, as Townſhips and Hundreds, as well w^tin francheſſe and lib'tes as w^tout w^tin the Counties of Suff' and Norff' And that they be charged to be redy at all tymes uppon an howre warnyng and ordered according to the laſt Comiſſion afore this, to attend uppon his Grace and uppon us to do him ſ^rvice whatſoever they ſhalbe comaunded, not failing herof as ye wull anſwer at yo^r. p'ile Goven at [3] Long Stratton the xx day of October.

[2] The Letter is defective in thoſe places where dots are uſed.
[3] In Norfolk.

And

aſſociate to his old Enemies of Scotland; intending not only to trouble his peace; the Nobles and Subjects of this Realm to deſtroy, their Goods and Poſſeſſions to ſpoil, and reward at their liberties; but alſo the Laws of this Land, and Holy Church to ſubvert.

Our ſaid moſt dread Sovereign Lord, as a Chriſtian Prince [2]. . . . . his ſaid Enemies and Rebels to reſiſt, hath aſſigned and commanded us to do all manner . . . . . and others defenſible able to labour, as well Archers as * Hobbellers to come before us and charge them . . . . armed and arrayed every man after his degree and power, to attend upon his Perſon, and upon us, to do him ſervice, in defence as well of the Church, as of the ſaid Nobles and Subjects of this Realm, againſt his ſaid Enemies and Rebels. We therefore will, and, in our ſaid Sovereign Lord's name, ſtraitly charge and command you, that in all poſſible haſte ye do [*cauſe*] this to be proclaimed: And that all manner *(of)* men, able to do the King ſervice, as well Knights, Eſquires, and Gentlemen; as Townſhips and Hundreds, as well within Franchiſes and Liberties as without, within the Counties of Suffolk and Norfolk; and that they be charged to be ready at all times, upon an hour's warning, and ordered according to the laſt Commiſſion afore this, to attend upon his Grace and upon us to do him ſervice, whenſoever they ſhall be commanded; not failing hereof, as ye will anſwer at your peril.

Given at [3] Long Stratton, the 20th day of October.

* Hoblers, or Hobilers, ſo called from the Hobbies, or diminutive horſes on which they rode; or more probably from *Hobilles*, the ſhort jackets they wore. They were light horſemen, and proved of conſiderable ſervice to Edward III. in his French expeditions. By the tenure of their lands they were obliged to maintain their nags, and were expected to be in readineſs, when ſudden invaſions happened, to ſpread immediate intelligence of them throughout the Country.

And forthermore that ye yeve credence unto o^r ſ^rvūt this Bringer, as this ſame day we receyved the Kings cōmiſſion at iiij aftre none.

[a] Suffolk por Frende.

Paper Mark,
The Letter P, and Quaterfoil.
Pl. XIII. N° 3.
11 ½ by 8 ½.

[a] John de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, &c. he died in 1491. Pl. VII. N° 3.

LETTER II.

To my ryght worſchipful Huſbond [1] John Paſton

RYGHT worſchipful huſbond I recomaund me onto you pleſe it you to wete that I ſent you^r eldeſt Sunne to my Lady [1] Morlee to have knolage wat Sports wer huſyd in her hows in Kyrſtemeſſe next folloyng aftyr the decyſſe of my Lord her huſbond and ſche ſeyd that yer wer non Dyſgyſyngs ner harpyng ner lutyng ner ſyngyn ner nō lowde Dyſports but pleyng at the Tabyllys and Scheſſe and Cards ſweche Dyſports Sche gave her folkys leve to play and nō odyr.

You^r Sunne dede heſe heyrne ryght wele as ye ſhal her aftyr yis. I ſent you^r yonger Sunne to the Lady [2] Stabylton and

We are here acquainted with the Diverſions and Amuſements allowed in the Houſes of the Nobility and Gentry during the joyous ſeaſon of Chriſtmas.

We ſee likewiſe the Reſpect paid to the Memory of the Head of a Family, when, at the Chriſtmas following his Death, none of the more merry or noiſy Diſports were permitted.

Sche

And furthermore that ye give credence unto our Servant this Bringer, as this ſame day we received the King's Commiſſion at four in the Afternoon.

[4] SUFFOLK, your Friend.

Long Stratton,
Wedneſday, 20th of October,
1484, 2 R. III.

LETTER V.

To my right worſhipful huſband John Paſton.

RIGHT worſhipful huſband, I recommend me unto you; Pleaſe it you to weet, that I ſent your eldeſt Son to my Lady [1] Morley, to have knowledge what Sports were uſed in her houſe in Chriſtmas next following, after the deceaſe of my Lord her huſband; and ſhe ſaid, that there were none Diſguiſings, nor Harping, nor Luting, nor Singing, nor none loud Diſports; but playing at the Tables, and Cheſs, and Cards; ſuch diſports ſhe gave her Folks leave to play and none other.

Your Son did his errand right well as ye ſhall hear after this. I ſent your younger Son to the Lady [2] Stapleton, and ſhe ſaid

[1] Widow of William Lovel, Lord Morley, who died the 23d of July, 1475.
[2] Sir Miles Stapleton died in 1466.

Sche ſeyd acordyng to my Lady Morlees ſeyng in that and as Sche hadde ſeyn huſyd in placs of worſchip yer as ſche hathe beyn.

I pray you that ye woll aſur to you ſome man at Caſter to kepe yo^{r} Botry for the mane that ye lefte w^{t} me woll not take upon hym to [3] breve dayly as ye cōmandyt, he ſeyth he hath not uſyd to geve a rekenyng nothyr of bred nor alle tyll at the wekys end, and he ſeyth he wot well that he ſhuld not condenyth and therfor I ſopoſſe he ſhall not abyd, and I trow ye ſhall be fayne to p'veye another man for Symond for ye har never the nerer a wyſſe man for hym.

I ham ſory that ye ſhall not at hom be for Cryſtemes.

I pȳ you that ye woll come as ſone as ye may, I ſhall thynke myſelf halfe, a wedow becauſe ye ſhal not be at home, &c. God have you in hys kepyng. Wretyn on Creſtemes evyn.

By yor 5 P. P.

12 by 5 ½.

[3] To breve, is to make up an account. How ſtrictly this cuſtom of *breving* was formerly obſerved in great houſes, may be known from one of the *daily* rules, enforced in the family of the fifth Earl of Northumberland.

"Furſt, that the ſaid Clerkis be dayly at the *Brewynge* every day by vii of the cloke in the mornynge. And theire to *Breve* every Officer accordynge as the cuſtome is unto half howre after viii of the cloke. And that theire be no Brackfaſts delyveret unto the tyme that all the Officers have *Breved*."———See *Houſehold Book*, p. 59.

As this Letter has no date of the year, I have had ſome doubts where to place it, unleſs we may ſuppoſe that the ſame reſpect would be paid to the memory of Margaret, Mother of J. Paſton, who was an Heireſs, and died in 1484, and whoſe will was proved on the 18th of December in that year.

L C T.

according to my Lady Morley's ſaying in that; and as ſhe had ſeen uſed in places of worſhip thereas [*where*] ſhe hath been.

I pray you that ye will aſſure to you ſome man at Caiſter, to keep your Buttery, for the man that ye left with me will not take upon him to [3] breve daily as ye commanded; he ſaith, he hath not uſed to give a reckoning neither of Bread nor Ale, till at the week's end, and he ſaith, he wot [*knows*] well that he ſhould not condeneth [*give content*], and therefore I ſuppoſe he ſhall not abide, and I trow ye ſhall be fain [*glad*] to purvey another man for Symond, for ye are never the nearer a wiſe man for him.

I am ſorry that ye ſhall not at home be for Chriſtmas.

I pray you that ye will come as ſoon as ye may; I ſhall think myſelf half a Widow, becauſe ye ſhall not be at home, &c. God have you in his keeping. Written on Chriſtmas Even.

By your [5] MARGERY PASTON.

Friday, 24th of December,
1484, 2 R. III.

If I could have placed it earlier, I ſhould have fixed upon the Death of Sir John Paſton, in November 1479, as the time of its being written; but the preſent J. Paſton was not married till 1477, and his eldeſt Son being born in 1478, was now only in his ſeventh year, which might be the caſe, as the expreſſion that he "dede heſe heyrne ryght wele," implies his being very young.

[5] Autograph. Pl. VII. N° 7.

LET-

LETTER IV.

To my welbelovyd frend John Paſton be thys byll delyveryd in haſt.

WELBELOVYD frend I cūmaunde me to yow letyng yow to undyrſtond that y^e^ Kyngs Enmyſſe be a land and y^t^ the Kyng wold hafe ſet forthe as uppon Monday but only for howre [1] Lady day but for ſerten he gothe forward as uppon tewſday for a ſ^r^vant of myne browt to me the ſertente.

Wherfor I pray yow that ye met w^t^ me at [2] Bery for be the grace of God I purpoſſe to lye at Bery as uppon tewſday nyght and that ye brynge w^t^ yow ſeche cōpany of tall mē as ye may goodly make at my coſt and charge be ſeyd that ye have p'myſyd the Kyng and I pray yow ordeyne them [3] Jakets of my Levery and I ſhall cōtente yow at yo^r^ metyng w^t^ me.

Power lover,

J. Norffolk.

8 ½ by 5.

Henry, Earl of Richmond, landed upon Saturday the 6th of Auguſt, 1485, at Milford Haven, in South Wales; this Letter therefore could not be written before the Friday or Saturday following (12 or 13th of Auguſt).

Richard appears not to have regarded the landing of the Earl as a matter of that great importance which it ſoon became; for as a valiant Prince he certainly would have ſet forwards to meet his Competitor as ſoon as poſſible; and however great his veneration might have been for the day of "the Aſſumption of our Lady," yet his fears of loſing a Crown, for the poſſeſſion of which he had ventured every thing, would have been ſtill greater; and would have prompted him to break in upon the ſervices due to our Lady.

The Duke of Norfolk ſurvived the writing of this Letter only a few days, for he joined his Royal Maſter, and commanded the Vanguard of his Army in the Field of Boſworth, where he fell on Monday the 22d of Auguſt, valiantly fighting for his Sovereign Lord and Benefactor. Pl. VII. N° 4.

LET-

LETTER VI.

To my well beloved Friend John Paſton, be this bill delivered in haſte.

WELL beloved Friend, I commend me to you, letting you to underſtand that the King's Enemies be a-land, and that the King would have ſet forth as upon Monday, but only for our [1] Lady day; but for certain he goeth forward as upon Tueſday, for a Servant of mine brought to me the certainty.

Wherefore I pray you, that ye meet with me at [2] Bury, for, by the Grace of God, I purpoſe to lie at Bury as upon Tueſday night; and that ye bring with you ſuch Company of tall men as ye may goodly make at my coſt and charge, beſides that which ye have promiſed the King; and, I pray you, ordain them [3] Jackets of my Livery, and I ſhall content you at your meeting with me.

Your Lover,

J. NORFOLK.

Between the 8th and 15th of Auguſt, 1485, 3 R. III.

[1] The Aſſumption of our Lady, 15th of Auguſt.

[2] Bury St. Edmund's in Suffolk.

[3] From this it appears that the royal army, when embodied, was clothed in Jackets of the Livery of the reſpective great Lords and Commanders.

The Editor cannot help remarking, that he feels a pleaſing ſatisfaction at the thought, that the Original Letter now lying before him, and which he has juſt now tranſcribed, &c. has this day, Friday the 12th of Auguſt, 1785, been written (moſt probably) exactly three hundred years. During this Period ten generations of the Howards have paſſed away; the preſent Duke of Norfolk, now in his 65th year, being the tenth in lineal Deſcent from the noble Writer of this Letter.

LETTER VII.

To my Right truſty and welbeloved Son Sir John Paſton be yᵗ. delyu'ed.

SON Paſton I Recommaunde me to you in my moſte hertely maner and wher I underſtande be my Doghter Lovell ye deſyre to know whedir I woll have yᵉ bargane ye made for me in Norwich or nay, and if I wol I moſte content therfor now in mercs, Son in good faith it is ſo I ſhal Receyve no money of the Revenowſe of my lyvelod afor' mydſõmeʳ and alſo I have payd accordyng to my p'miſe to Sir William Cabell a great payment yᵉ which ye knowe wel was due to be payde ſo that I can not be of power to content therfor', for the which I am right ſory for I know well I ſhall never have ſuch a bargane, Alſo my Doghtyr Lovell makith great ſute and laboʳ for my ſone hir huſbande Sʳ. Edwarde ffranke hath be'n in the north to inquire for hȳ he is comyn agayne and cane nogth underſtonde wher he is. Wherfor' her Benevolers willith hir to continue hir ſute

This is in ſome degree a private Letter of Buſineſs, and ſhews the Lady to be a Purchaſer (I ſuppoſe) of Eſtates. She was the Widow of Henry, Lord Fitzhugh, Baron of Ravenſworth, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury, and Siſter to Richard, the great Earl of Warwick. Pl. VII. Nº 5.

Francis, Viſcount Lovell, the Huſband of her Daughter, was at this time concealed, in conſequence of the part he had taken in favour of his royal Maſter Richard III. to whom he had been Lord Chamberlain, and in whoſe confidence he held the firſt place. He afterwards

LETTER VII.

To my Right truſty and well beloved Son, Sir John Paſton, be this delivered.

SON Paſton, I recommend me to you, in my moſt heartily manner; and where(*as*) I underſtand by my Daughter Lovell, ye deſire to know whether I will have the bargain ye made for me in Norwich, or nay; and if I will, I muſt content therefore now in marks. Son, in good faith it is ſo, I ſhall receive no money of the Revenue of my livelihood afore Midſummer; and alſo I have paid according to my promiſe to Sir William Cabell a great payment, the which ye know well was due to be paid, ſo that I cannot be of power to content therefore; for the which I am right ſorry, for I know well I ſhall never have ſuch a bargain. Alſo my Daughter Lovell maketh great ſuit and labour for my Son her [1] Huſband. S[r]. Edward Franke hath been in the North to inquire for him; he is come again, and can nought underſtand where he is. Wherefore her Benevolers [*well-wiſhers*] willeth her to continue her ſuit and

afterwards joined in the plot of Lambert Simnel, and was killed at the battle of Stoke, in 1487.

The hand-writing of this Letter is the ſame throughout, and appears to be the hand of a Secretary, rather than that of a Lady, but whether it be ſo or not muſt remain a doubt.

It was written after the Acceſſion of Henry VII. but as it contains an Anecdote of Lord Lovel, the Favourite of Richard III. I have inſerted it here.

ſute and labo' And ſo I can not dep'te nor leve hir as ye know well, and if I might be ther' I wold be full glad as knowith o'. Lorde God whoo have you in his bliſſid kepynge ffrom London the xxiiijth day of ffebruary.

Yr loving Moder,

Alise Lady Fitzhugh.

9 by 4 ½.

Under the Direction in a hand more modern is written, "Lrā Dn'e ffitzhugh ſed "ob quā cauſam vocat p'd'tum Johēm filiū ſuū adhuc ignoro.

Paper Mark,
A Star of eight points, ſurmounted by a Coronet.
Pl. XIII. N° 5.

LETTER VIII.

To my Right truſti and welbiloved John Paſton Shrieve of Norff' and Suff'.

RIGHT truſti and welbiloved I Recomaund me unto you And for as moche as I ame credebly enfourmed that Fraunceis late Lorde Lovell is now of late reſorted into the yle of Ely to the entente by alle lykelyhod to finde the waies and meanes

As this and the preceding Letter relate to a Nobleman, who was the Lord Chamberlain, and Favourite of Richard III. I have given them a place here, though they were not written till after the Death of this King, and the Acceſſion of Henry VII.

labour; and ſo I cannot depart nor leave her as ye know well; and if I might be there, I would be full glad, as knoweth our Lord God, who have you in his bleſſed keeping. From London, the 24th day of February.

Your loving Mother,

ALISE Lady FITZHUGH.

London,
24th of February,
1485.

LETTER VIII.

To my right truſty and well beloved John Paſton, Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk.

RIGHT truſty and well beloved, I recommend me unto you; and foraſmuch as I am credibly informed, that Francis, late Lord Lovell, is now of late reſorted into the Iſle of Ely, to the intent by all likelihood, to find the ways and

In this Letter we ſee the anxiety of the new King and his Friends, for the apprehenſion of the late Lord Lovell, who had been attainted after the Battle of Boſworth.

He however eſcaped all purſuit, and got ſafe to the Ducheſs of Burgundy, by whoſe perſuaſion he afterwards joined in the plot of Lambert Simnel, and attending him to England, was killed at the battle of Stoke, in 1487.

meanes to gete him ſhipping and paſſage in yo^{r} coſtes or ellis to Reſorte ageyn to Seintuary if he can or maie.

I therfor hertily deſire and praie you And nev^{r}theleſſe in the King's name ſtreitly chargie you that ye in all goodly haſte endevore yo^{r} ſelf that ſuche wetche or other meanes be uſed and hadde in the Poorts and Creks and othre places wher ye thinke neceſſary by your Diſcrecion to the letting of his ſeid purpoſe And that ye alſo uſe all the waies ye can or maie by your wiſdom to the taking of the ſame late Lorde Lovell And what pleaſur ye maie do to the Kings g'ce in this matier I am ſure is not to you unknowen. And God kepe you.

Wretyn at Lavenh'm the xix day of May.

[1] Margaret Drynford.

12 by 8 ½.

[1] Margaret, Daughter of Richard Neville, Earl of Saliſbury, and Siſter of Richard, the great Earl of Warwick, was the firſt wife of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford. During the impriſonment of her Huſband, in the reign of Edward IV. ſhe ſupported herſelf by working with her needle, &c. Pl. VII. N° 6. The Earl himſelf, in the reign of Henry VII. became a man of great conſequence in the ſtate, and died in 1512, 4 Hen. VIII.

The male branch of this noble family of the de Veres, Earls of Oxford, has been extinct from the beginning of this century; but there are ſtill ſeveral noble families deſcended from the female branches, particularly that of Townſhend, of Rainham, in Norfolk, the preſent Lord Viſcount Townſhend being a lineal deſcendant from Mary, the daughter and coheir of the famous Horatio, Lord Vere of Tilbury.

means to get him ſhipping and paſſage in your coaſts, or elſe to reſort again to Sanctuary, if he can or may.

I therefore heartily deſire and pray you, and nevertheleſs, in the King's name, ſtraitly charge you, that ye in all goodly haſte endeavour yourſelf, that ſuch watch, or other means be uſed and had in the Ports, and Creeks, and other places, where ye think neceſſary by your diſcretion, to the letting of his ſaid purpoſe; and that ye alſo uſe all the ways ye can or may by your wiſdom, to the taking of the ſame late Lord Lovell; and what pleaſure ye may do to the King's Grace in this matter, I am ſure is not to you unknown; and God keep you.

Written at Lavenham, the 19th day of May.

MARGARET OXYNFORD.

Lavenham, in Suffolk,
Friday, 19th of May,
1486.

The Seal of this Letter has the Impreſſion of a Head. Pl. XIV. N° 27.

CONCLUSION.

READER,

WE have now finiſhed our progreſs through the diſtant period of Engliſh Hiſtory deſcribed in theſe Letters.

If you have received any pleaſure from the Rarity of the Scenes, from the Manners of the Times, or from the curious Information, which you may have acquired, I ſhall be happy; and ſhall conſider the care, trouble, and attention, which I have beſtowed, in ſmoothing the Road, in improving the Landſcape, and in erecting a few Guide-Poſts for your eaſe and direction, as having been employed for an uſeful purpoſe.

"*Forſan et hæc olim meminiſſe juvabit.*"

Eaſt-Dereham, Norfolk,
Monday, 22d of Auguſt, 1785,
25 Geo. III.

A

CATALOGUE

OF THE

ORIGINAL LETTERS, &c.

A LIST OF THE

PLATES, and NUMBERS thereon.

AN

EXPLANATION of the PLATE of SEALS.

The PLATES of AUTOGRAPHS, N° I. II. III. IV. V. VI. VII.

The PLATES of PAPER-MARKS, N° VIII. IX. X. XI. XII. XIII.

The PLATE of SEALS, N° XIV.

A CATALOGUE of the ORIGINAL LETTERS,

H E N R Y VI.

V O L. I.

Autographs. Pl.	N°		Letters From and to whom.
II.	19	1	AGNES Paſton, to Sir William Paſton.
II.	17	2	Robert Reppes, to John Paſton.
I.	3	3	Mowbray (duke of) Norff', to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	18	4	John Northwood, to John, viſcount Beaumont.
I.	5	5	Henry (duke of) Buckingham, to viſcount Beaumont.
II.	14	6	William Yelverton, juſtice, to John Paſton, eſquire.
III.	28	7	James Greſham, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	25	8	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
I.	6	9	Suffolk (duke of) to his Son John.
II.	26	10	William Lomner, to John Paſton.
III.	29	11	John Crane, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	15	12	John Faſtolf, Knight, to ſir Thomas Howes, Cl.
III.	30	13	Payn John, to John Paſton.
I.	4	14	Richard, duke of York's petition to the king.
II.	20	15	Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	21	16	Wyllyam Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	23	17	William Botoner, to John Paſton.
III.	31	18	Edmund Clere, to John Paſton.
I.	7	19	Richard, erle of Warwyke, to ſir Thomas Todenham.
I.	7	20	Richard (earl of) Warrewyk, to John Paſton, eſquire.
I.	4	21	Richard (duke of) York, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	16	22	. . . ducheſſe of Norff', to John Paſton, eſquire.
I.	8	23	Oxenford (John E. of) to John Paſton.
III.	29	24	John Crane, to John Paſton.
II.	27	25	W. B. to William Worceſter.
III.	32	26	Henry Wyndeſore, to John Bokking, and William Worceſter.
III.	28	27	James Greſham, to John Paſton.
II.	15	28	John Faſtolf, to John Paſton, &c.
I.	9	29	T. (archbiſhop of) Canterbury, to ſir John Faſtolf.
I.	11	30	John, lord Lovell, to viſcount Beaumont.
III.	33	31	John Bokkyng, to John Paſton.
III.	33	32	John Bokkyng, to John Paſton, eſquire.

With their DATES, AUTOGRAPHS, and PAPER-MARKS.

HENRY VI.

VOL. I.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper Marks. Pl. Nº
1	About 1440, 18 H. 6.		
2	1 November, 1440, 19 H. 6.	An animal with one horn.	VIII. 1
3	18.—before 1444, 23 H. 6.		
4	Between 1440 and 1450, 18 and 28 H. 6.	Bull's or goat's head.	VIII. 3
5	17 March, between 1444 & 55, 23 & 35 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
6	4 Oct. between 1444 & 60, 23 & 39 H. 6.		
7	18 October, 1449, 28 H. 6.		
8	12 March, 1449, 28 H. 6.		
9	April, 1450, 28 H. 6.	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
10	5 May, 1450, 28 H. 6	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
11	6 May, 1450, 28 H. 6	Croſs, &c.	VIII. 6
12	27 May, 1450, 28 H. 6.		
13	June and July, 1450, 28 H. 6.	YHS, ſurrounded by a radiated ſtar of 16 points.	VIII. 5
14	1451, 30 H. 6.	A pillar.	VIII. 7
15	21 April, 1452, 30 H. 6.	A flower.	VIII. 8
16	1452, or 53, 30 or 31 H. 6.		
17	8 June, 1454, 32 H. 6.		
18	10 January, 1454, 33 H. 6.		
19	2 November, before 1455, 33 H. 6.		
20	23 Auguſt, before 1460, 38 H. 6.	Croſs keys.	VIII. 9
21	19 Auguſt, 1454 or 55, 32 or 33 H. 6.		
22	8 June		
23	18 October, before 1455, 33 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head.	IX. 10
24	25 May, 1455, 33 H. 6.	A pair of ſhears.	IX. 11
25	June, 1455, 33 H. 6.	A bull.	IX. 10
26	20 July, 1455, 33 H. 6.		
27	28 October, 1455, 34 H. 6.		
28	5 February, 1455, 34 H. 6.		
29	27 March, between 1454 & 59, 32 & 38 H. 6.		
30	24 July, between 1455 & 60, 33 & 39 H. 6.		
31	15 May, 1456, 34 H. 6.		
32	7 June, 1456, 34 H. 6.		

Auto-graphs. Pl.	N°	Letters From and to whom.
I.	12	33 (Thomas lord) Scales, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	24	34 William Botoner, to John Paſton, eſquire, &c.
II.	19	35 Augnes Paſton, to . . . . .
I.	10	36 Richard (earl of) Saliſbury, to viſcount Beaumont.
II.	24	37 William Botoner, dit. Worceſter, to ſir John Faſtolf.
III.	33	38 John Bokkyng, to ſir John Faſtolf.
III.	34	39 John Jernyngan, to Margaret Paſton.
III.	35	40 . . . . . Denyes, to John Paſton.
II.	15	41 John Faſtolf, to John Paſton, &c.
III.	36	42 Henry Fylungley, to ſir John Faſtolf.
III.	32	43 Henry Wyndeſore, to John Paſton.
II.	25	44 Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
III.	33	45 John Bokkyng, to William Yelverton, J. Paſton, &c.
II.	24	46 William Botoner, called Wyrceſter, to John Berney, eſquire.
II.	21	47 William Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	13	48 (lord) Molyns, to William, biſhop of Wincheſter.
II.	13	49 R. H. lord Molyns, to tenants of Greſham.
II.	16	50 Elianore, ducheſs of Norff', to viſcount Beaumont.
III.	37	51 Xpofer Hauſſon, to John Paſton, eſquire.
II.	22	52 Clement Paſton, to John Paſton.
III.	38	53 Robert Wenyngton, to Thomas Danyel, eſquire.

E D W A R D IV.

II. 21 / V. 14		1 William Paſton, and Thomas Playter, to John Paſton.
V.	14	2 Thomas Playter, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV. 9 or 11		3 John Paſton, junior, to . . . . .
V.	14	4 Thomas Playter, to John Paſton.
III.	28	5 James Greſham, to John Paſton.
V.	15	6 John Berneye, to John Paſton, and William Rokewode, eſquires.
V.	15	7 John Berneye, to John Paſton, and William Rokewode, eſquires.
III.	32	8 Henry Wyndeſore, to John Paſton, eſquire.
A copy.		9 Lord Hungerford, Sir Robert Whityngham, } to queen Margaret.
		10 Examinations ſent to J. Paſton.
V.	16	11 John Wykes, to John Paſton, eſquire.
V.	17	12 John Mowth, to John Paſton.
V.	18	13 John Ruſſe, to John Paſton.
V.	18	14 John Ruſſe, to John Paſton.
IV. 9 or 11		15 John Paſton, junior, to John Paſton.
V.	14	16 (Thomas) Playter, to John Paſton.
IV.	11	17 John Paſton, youngeſt, to John Paſton, eldeſt ſon of John Paſton.
V.	19	18 Henry Berry, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	11	19 John Paſton, youngeſt, to John Paſton, his father.
IV.	9	20 Sir John Paſton, to John Paſton, his brother.
IV.	9	21 John Paſton, knight, to Margaret Paſton, his mother.
V.	13	22 Wylliam Paſton, junior, to John Paſton, his brother.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper-Marks. Pl. N°
33	10 Auguſt, 1456, 34 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head, &c.	VIII. 2
34	5 July, 1457, 35 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head, &c.	VIII. 2
35	28 January, 1457, 36 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
36	24 January, 1457, 36 H. 6.		
37	1 February, 1457, 36 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
38	15 March, 1457, 36 H. 6.		
39	1 June, 1458, 36 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	IX. 12
40	13 May, before 1460, 39 H. 6.		
41	18 November, before 1459, 38 H. 6.	Bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
42	17 July, before 1459, 38 H. 6.	Two pales within a lozenge ſhield, ſurmounted by a coronet.	IX. 13
43	Auguſt, before 1459, 38 H. 6.		
44	29 April, 1459, 37 H. 6.	Part of a bull's head and ſtar.	VIII. 2
45	7 December, 1459, 38 H. 6.		
46	January, 1459, 38 H. 6.		
47	29 January, 1459, 38 H. 6.	Cap and fleur de lys.	VIII. 4
48	13 June, between 1457 & 60, 35 & 39 H. 6.		
49	24 March, before 1460, 39 H. 6.	Bunch of Grapes.	IX. 14
50	8 March, before 1460, 39 H. 6.	A pyramid.	IX. 15
51	12 October, 1460, 39 H. 6.		
52	23 January, 1460, 39 H. 6.		
53	H. 6.	A pair of ſcales.	IX. 16

EDWARD IV.

1	4 April, 1461, 1 E. 4.	Bull's head and ſtar.	X. 1
2	18 April, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
3	1461, 1 E. 4.		
4	May or June, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
5	21 June, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
6	10 July, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
7	16 July, 1461, 1 E. 4.		
8	4 October, 1461, 1 E. 4.	Bull's head and ſtar.	X. 1
9	30 Auguſt, 1461, 1 E. 4.	Bull's head and ſtar.	X. 1
10	March, 1461, 2 E. 4.		
11	25 March, 1462, 2 E. 4.		
12	12 May, 1462, 2 E. 4.		
13	1462, 2 E 4.		
14	1462, 2 E. 4.	Vinebranch, & bunch of grapes	X. 2
15	1 November, 1462, 2 E. 4.		
16	1462, or 1463, 2 or 3 E. 4.		
17	10 December, 1463, 3 E. 4.		
18	28th January, 1463 or 4, 3 or 4 E. 4.		
19	1 March, 1463, 3 E. 4.		
20	30 April, 1466, 6 E. 4.	A demi bull.	X. 5
21	Between 1466, and 69, 6 and 9 E. 4.	A bunch of grapes.	X. 4
22	23 of February, 1467, 7 E. 4.		

A CATALOGUE of the ORIGINAL LETTERS,

EDWARD IV.

VOL. II.

Auto-graphs. Pl.	N°	Letters From and to whom
IV.	12	23 JOHN Paſton, younger, to Margaret Paſton.
V.	20	24 William Ebeſham, to ſir John Paſton.
V.	21	25 Jakys Hawte, to ſir John Paſton.
V.	22	26 John Aubry, to ſir Henry Spelman.
IV.	9	27 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton.
IV.	3	28 (John, duke of) Norff', to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	5	29 (John, earl of) Oxynford, to ſir John Paſton.
IV.	10	30 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	4	31 George, archbiſhop of York, to ſir John Paſton.
V.	23	32 For trowyth, to J. Paſton.
IV.	1	33 Edward IV. to the { Duke of Clarence, Earl of Warrewyk, and archbiſhop of York.
IV.	12	34 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton
IV.	9	35 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton.
IV.	12	36 John Paſton, to Margaret Paſton, (Henry VI.)
IV.	5	37 (John, earl of) Oxynford, to Thomas Veer, (Henry VI.)
IV.	5	38 (John, earl of) Oxynford, to Henry Spilman, &c. (Henry VI.)
III.	28	39 James Greſham, to ſir John Paſton, (Henry VI.)
IV.	9	40 Sir John Paſton, to his mother.
IV.	6	41 O . . . . . d to his lady, *(Secret.)*
IV.	10	42 John Paſton, knight, to Margaret, or John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	10	43 John Paſton, knight, to John, or Margaret Paſton.
IV.	9	44 John Paſton, knight, to Margaret Paſton.
IV.	9	45 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	12	46 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton.
V.	24	47 James Arblaſter, to John Carenton.
IV.	12	48 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton.

With their DATES, AUTOGRAPHS, and PAPER-MARKS.

EDWARD IV.

VOL. II.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper Marks. Pl.	N°
23	8 July, 1468, 8 E. 4.	A Catherine wheel.	X.	6
24	1469, 9 E. 4.	Wheels, &c.	X.	7
		Bull's head and ſtar.	X.	1
25	22 May, 1469, 9 E. 4.			
26	6 July, 1469, 9 E. 4.			
27	1469, or 1474, 9 or 14 E. 4.			
28	26 September, 1469, 9 E. 4.			
29	18 July, 1469 or 70, 9 or 10 E. 4.			
30	Feb. or March, 1469 or 70, 9 or 10 E. 4.	A goat's head.	X.	8
31	7 May, between 1466 and 76, 6 and 16 E. 4.			
32	27 March, 1470, 10 E. 4.			
33	9 July, 1470, 10 E. 4.			
34	1470, (1472) 10 E. 4.			
35	5 Auguſt, 1470, 10 E. 4.	The Letter R.	XI.	16
36	11 October, 1470, 10 E. 4.			
37	14 March, 1470, 11 E. 4.	Wheels, &c.	X.	9
38	19 March, 1470, 11 E. 4.	Bull's head & ſtar, with a circle	X.	3
39	End of March, or beginning of April, 1471, 11 E. 4.	A pair of ſhears.	XI.	11
40	18 April, 1471, 11 E. 4.	Bull's head and ſtar.	XI.	10
41	April, 1471, 11 E. 4.	Bull's head and ſtar.	X.	1
42	13 or 15 September, 1471, 11 E. 4.	Bull's head.	XI.	12
43	28 September, 1471, 11 E. 4.			
44	8 January, 1471, 11 E. 4.			
45	17 February, 1471, 11 E. 4.			
46	5 June, 1472 (1470) 12 E. 4.	Bull's head and ſtar.	X.	1
47	20 September, 1472, 12 E. 4.	Bull's head and ſtar.	X.	1
48	21 September, 1472, 12 E. 4.	Wheels, &c.	X.	9

Auto-graphs. Pl.	N°	Letters From and to whom.
IV.	9	49 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	10	50 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	10	51 John Paſton, knight, to John, or Margaret Paſton.
IV.	9	52 Sir John Paſton, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	10	53 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	10	54 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	9	55 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	9	56 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	9	57 Sir John Paſton, to Edmund Paſton.
IV.	7	58 (William lord) Haſtyngs, to { Sir John Middelton. / Sir John Paſton. }
IV.	9	59 John Paſton, knight, to Margaret Paſton.
V.	13	60 Wyllyam Paſton, to ſir John Paſton.
IV.	9	61 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire, &c.
IV.	10	62 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	9	63 Sir John Paſton, to John, or Margaret Paſton.
II.	20	64 Margaret Paſton, to John Paſton.
II.	20	65 Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton.
IV.	12	66 John Paſton, to ſir John Paſton.
IV.	9	67 John Paſton, knight, to John, or Margaret Paſton.
IV.	9	68 Sir John Paſton, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	10	69 John Paſton, knight, to Margaret, or John Paſton.
IV.	9	70 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
V.	26	71 Dame Elizabeth Brews, to John Paſton.
VI.	27	72 Margery Brews, to John Paſton, eſquire.
VI.	27	73 Margery Brews, to John Paſton, eſquire.
VI.	28	74 Thomas Kela, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	12	75 John Paſton, to Margaret Paſton.
V.	25	76 Thomas Brews, knight, to ſir John Paſton.
VI.	29	77 John Pympe, to ſir John Paſton.
VI.	29	*77 John Pympe, to ſir John Paſton.
IV.	9	78 John Paſton, knight, to Margaret Paſton.
IV.	9	79 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	10	80 John Paſton, knight, to John Paſton, eſquire.
VI.	30	81 Edmund Bedyngfeld, to ſir John Paſton.
VII.	7	82 Margery Paſton, to John Paſton.
IV.	9	83 John Paſton, knight, to Margaret Paſton.
II.	20	84 Margaret Paſton, to ſir John Paſton.
IV.	9	85 John Paſton, knight, to John, or Margery Paſton.
IV.	9	86 John Paſton, knight, to Margaret Paſton.
IV.	12	87 John Paſton, eſquire, to Margaret Paſton.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper Marks. Pl. N°
49	4 November, 1472, 12 E. 4.	A demi bull.	X. 5
50	8 and 9 November, 1472, 12 E. 4.	P. and quaterfoil.	XI. 13
51	3 February, 1472, 12 E. 4.		
52	2 April, 1473, 13 E. 4.	Part of a P, &c.	XI. 13
53	15 April, 1473, 13 E. 4.		
54	16 April, 1473, 13 E. 4.	Vinebranch,&bunchofgrapes	X. 2
55	18 May, 1473, 13 E. 4.	Bull's head and ſtar.	X. 1
56	3 June, 1473, 13 E. 4.	P. and quaterfoil.	XI. 15
57	5 July, 1473, 13 E. 4.	P. and quaterfoil.	XI. 13
58	16 September, 1473, 13 E. 4.		
59	20 February, 1473, 13 E. 4.		
60	7 March, 1473, 14 E. 4.	An unicorn.	XI. 14
61	20 November, 1474, 14 E. 4.		
62	11 December, 1474, 14 E. 4.	Wheels, &c.	X. 9
63	17 January, 1474, 14 E. 4.		
64	5 March, 1474, 15 E. 4.		
65	10 Auguſt, 1475, 15 E. 4.		
66	23 October, 1475, 15 E. 4.		
67	17 January, 1475, 15 E. 4.		
68	27 January, 1475, 15 E. 4.		
69	21 March, 1475, 16 E. 4.	G. and croſs.	XII. 18
70	14 February, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
71	Between 8 and 14 February, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
72	February, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
73	February or March, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
74	February or March, 1476, 16 E. 4.		
75	8 March, 1476, 17 E. 4.		
76	8 March, 1476, 17 E. 4.		
77	16 March, 1476, 17 E. 4.		
77	March, or April, 1477, 17 E. 4.		
78	28 March, 1477, 17 E. 4.		
79	14 April, 1477, 17 E. 4.	French arms, and I E S.	XII. 22
80	23 June, 1477, 17 E. 4.		
81	17 Auguſt, 1477, 17 E. 4.		
82	18 December, (query) 1477, 17 E. 4.	Croſs keys.	XII. 19
83	13 May, 1478, 18 E. 4.		
84	26 May, 1478, 18 E. 4.		
85	23 or 25 Auguſt, 1478, 18 E. 4.		
86	29 October, 1479, 19 E. 4.	A flaggon, or chalice.	XII. 20
87	November, 1479, 19 E. 4.		

Auto-graphs. Pl.	N°		Letters From and to whom.
II.	25	1	MARGARET Paſton, to John Paſton.
IV.	8	2	(Humphrey lord) Cromwell, to John Paſton, eſquire.
IV.	2	3	Elizabeth, ſiſter of Edward IV. to John Paſton.
IV.	9	4	John Paſton, to Mrs. Anne . . . .
IV.	7	5	(William lord) Haſtyngs, to John Paſton, eſquire.
VI.	31	6	Catalogue of the books of John Paſton.
		7	Verſes by a lady to a nobleman.

RICHARD III.

Auto-graphs. Pl.	N°		Letters From and to whom.
VII.	4	1	(JOHN duke of) Norfolk, to John Paſton.
VII.	3	2	(John Duke of) Suffolk, to Thomas Jeffreys.
VII.	1, 2	3	Richard III. to his ſubjects.
VII.	3	4	(John duke of) Suffolk, to John Paſton, ſheriff.
VII.	7	5	Margery Paſton, to John Paſton.
VII.	4	6	(John duke of) Norfolk, to John Paſton.
VII.	5	7	Aliſe, lady Fitzhugh, to ſir John Paſton.
VII.	6	8	Margaret (counteſs of) Oxynford, to John Paſton, ſheriff.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper-Marks. Pl. N°
1	Before 1466, 6 E. 4.		
2	10 February, E. 4.		
3	(Query,) E. 4.		
4	22 July, E. 4.		
5	26 April, 147—, E. 4.	Part of an animal.	XII. 21
6	5 November, E. 4.	Forepart of an unicorn.	XII. 23
7	H. VI. or E. 4.	A bull.	IX. 10

RICHARD III.

	Dates.	Paper-Marks.	Paper Marks. Pl. N°
1	10 October, 1483, 1 R. 3.	G. and quaterfoil.	XII. 2
2	1 May, 1484, 1 R. 3.	Hand and ſtar.	XIII. 4
3	23 June, 1484, 2 R. 3.	P. and quaterfoil, and bar.	XIII. 3
4	20 October, 1484, 2 R. 3.	P. and quaterfoil.	XIII. 3
5	24 December, 1484, 2 R. 3.		
6	Between 8 and 15 Auguſt, 1485, 3 R. 3.		
7	24 February, 1485.	A ſtar of eight points, ſurmounted by a coronet.	XIII. 5
8	19 May, 1486.		

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have either AUTOGRAPHS, or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Autographs. Pl.	N°	Letters.	Autographs.
I.	1	(14)	R. H.
	2	(15) (9 E. IV.)	Marguiret.
	3	3 (Monogram)	Mowbray Norff'.
	4	14, 21	R. York.
	5	5	H. Bukingham.
	6	9	Suffolk.
	7	19, 20.	R. Warrewyk.
	8	23	Oxenford.
	9	29	T. Cant.
	10	36	R. Saliſbury.
	11	30	John, lord Lovell.
	12	33	Scales.
II.	13	48, 49.	R. H. lord Molyns.
	14	6	William Yelverton, juſtis.
	15	12, 28, 41.	J. Faſtolf, knight.
	16	22, 50, c.	Elianore, ducheſſe of Norff'.
	17	2	Rob. Reppes.
	18	4	John Northwod.
	19	1, 35, c.	Agn. Paſton.
	20	15, c.	M. Paſton, (64, 65, 84 E. IV.)
	21	16, 47, (1 E. 4.)	Wyllyam Paſton.
	22	52	Clement Paſton.
	23	17	Boto-ner.
	24	34, 37, 46.	W. Botoner, called Wyrceſter.
	25	8, 44, c.	M. P. (App. 1 E. IV.)
	26	10	W. L. Query, Wm. Lomner.
	27	25	W. B.
III.	28	7, 27.	James Gretham, (5, 39 E. IV.)
	29	11, 24.	John Crane.
	30	13	Payn J.
	31	18	Edmund Clere.
	32	26, 43.	H. Wyndeſore, (8 E. IV.)
	33	31, 32. / 38, 45.	J. B. / J. Bokkyng.
	34	39	John Jernyngan.
	35	40	Denyes.
	36	42	Henry Fylungley.
	37	51	Xpofer Hauſſon.
	38	53	Robt. Wenyngton.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Paper Marks. Pl.	N°	Letters.	Paper-Marks.
VIII.	1	2 . . .	An animal with one horn.
	2	5, 33, 34, 35. 37, 41, 44.	Bull's head and ſtar.
	3	4 . . .	Bull's or goat's head.
	4	9, 10, 47.	Cap and fleur de lys.
	5	13 . . .	YHS, ſurrounded with a radiated ſtar of ſixteen points.
	6	11 . . .	Croſs, &c.
	7	14 . . .	A pillar.
	8	15 . . .	A flower.
	9	20 . . .	Croſs keys.
IX.	10	23, 25. App. 7.	Bull.
	11	24 . . .	A pair of ſhears.
	12	39 . . .	Bull's head and ſtar.
	13	42 . . .	Two pales within a lozenge ſhield, ſurmounted by a coronet.
	14	49 . . .	A bunch of grapes.
	15	50 . . .	A pyramid.
	16	53 . . .	A pair of ſcales.

EDWARD

A List of the Plates and Numbers referring to the Letters, which have either Autographs or Paper-Marks engraved.

Auto-graphs. Pl.	N°	Letters.	Autographs.
IV.	1	33	R. E.
	2	App. 3.	Elizabeth.
	3	28	Norff'.
	4	31	G. Eborac.
	5	29, 37, 38.	Oxynford.
	6	41	O . . . . . d
	7	58. App. 5.	Haſtyngs.
	8	App. 2.	Cromwell.
	9	15, 20, 21, 27, 35, 40, 44, 45, 49, 52, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 63, 67, 68, 70, 78, 79, 83, 85, 86. App. 4.	John Paſton, k.
	10	30, 42, 43, 50, 51, 53, 54, 62, 69, 80.	J. P. k.
	11	3, 17, 19.	John Paſton, the yongeſt.
	12	23, 34, 36, 46, 48, 66, 75, 87.	J. Paſton, the yonger.
V.	13	22, 60.	Wyllm Paſton, junr.
	14	1, 2, 4, 16.	Thom's Playter.
	15	6, 7.	John Berneye.
	16	11	John Wykes.
	17	12	Fryer Jan Mowth.
	18	13, 14.	John Ruſſe.
	19	18. (Monogram.)	Henr Berry.
	20	24	William Ebeſham.
	21	25	Jakys Hawte.
	22	26	John Aubry, &c.
	23	32	For Trowyth.
	24	47	J. Arblaſter.
	25	76	T. Brews, knyth.
	26	71, c.	Dame Elizabeth Brews.
VI.	27	72, 73, c.	M. B. M'gery Brews.
	28	74	Tho's Kela.
	29	77, * 77.	J. Pympe.
	30	81	E. Bedyngfeld.
	31	App. 6.	Arabic Figures.
	32	Preface, p. xxxi.	Points, or Stops.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Paper Marks. Pl.	N°	Letters.	Paper-Marks.
X.	1	1, 8, 9, 24, 41, 46, 47, 55.	Bull's head and ſtar.
	2	14, 54.	Vine branch, and bunch of grapes.
	3	38	Bull's head and ſtar, with a circle.
	4	21	Bunch of grapes.
	5	20, 49.	A demi bull.
	6	23	A Catharine wheel.
	7	24	Wheels, &c.
	8	30	A goat's head.
	9	37, 48, 62.	Wheels, &c.
XI.	10	40	Bull's head and ſtar.
	11	39	A pair of ſhears.
	12	42	Bull's head.
	13	50, 52, 57.	P. and quaterfoil.
	14	60	A unicorn.
	15	56	P. and quaterfoil.
	16	35	R.
	17	43	A plan of Greſham houſe.
XII.	18	69	G. and croſs.
	19	82	Croſs keys.
	20	86	A flaggon or chalice.
	21	App. 5.	Part of an animal.
	22	79	French arms and coronet, &c.
	23	App. 6.	Part of an unicorn.

RICHARD

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Autographs. Pl.	N°	Letters.	Autographs.
VII.	1	3	R. R.
	2		Ricardus Rex.
	3	2, 4.	Suffolk.
	4	1, 6.	J. Norfolk.
	5	7 c.	Alise, lady Fitzhugh.
	6	8	Margaret Oxynford.
	7	5 (82. E. IV.)	M. P.

CONTENTS of the PLATES.

AUTOGRAPHS.

Plate.	Royal.	Noble.	Commoners.	Total.	King's Reign.	Total.
I.	2.	10		12	Henry VI.	38
II.		2	13	15		
III.			11	11		
IV.	2.	6	4	12	Edward IV.	30, &c.
V.			14	14		
VI.			4 Figures and Points.	4		
VII.	2.	4	2. Editor, &c.	8	Richard III.	8, &c.
	6.	22	48, &c.	76		76, &c.

FAC SIMILES.

Plate XV. No. 1. A Fac Simile from Letter XXXVI. Vol. I. p. 148.
No. 2. A Fac Simile of the whole of Letter III. Vol. II. p. 292.

A LIST of the PLATES and NUMBERS referring to the LETTERS, which have either AUTOGRAPHS or PAPER-MARKS engraved.

Paper Marks. Pl.	Nº	Letters.	Paper-Marks.
XIII.	1	3	P. quaterfoil, and bar.
	2	1	G. and quaterfoil.
	3	4	P. and quaterfoil.
	4	2	Hand and ſtar.
	5	7	Star of 8 points, ſurmounted by a coronet.
	6	Preface, p. xx.	A ſtar of 8 points, within a double circle.

CONTENTS of the PLATES.

PAPER-MARKS, and SEALS.

Plate.	Paper-Marks.	Seals.	King's Reign.	Total.
VIII.	9		} Henry VI.	16
IX.	7			
X.	9		} Edward IV.	23
XI.	8. One a plan.			
XII.	6.			
XIII.	6. Editor, &c.		Richard III.	6, &c.
XIV.	. . . . .	28		28
	45, &c.	28		73, &c.

FAC SIMILES.

Plate XVI. } No. 3. A Fac Simile of the back of Letter III. Vol. II. p. 292.
No. 4. A Fac Simile from Letter V. Vol. II. p. 298.

HENRY VI.

Pl. XIV.		Letter.
N° 1	William Yelverton. - - - - -	6
	A cinquefoil.—The motto illegible.—The external circle repreſents a braid of twine, the four rays ſhow the direction of the ſtrings which faſtened the letter.	
2	James Greſham. - - - - -	7, 27
	A graſshopper.	
3	John Crane. - - - - - -	11
	The ſeal is blank, having a braid of twine round it.—The Rays as N° 1.	
4	William Paſton. - - - - -	16
	A fleur de lys.	
5	Edmund Clere. - - - - -	18
	A roſe.	
6	Richard Neville, earl of Warwick. - - -	19, 20
	A bear ſupporting a ragged ſtaff.	
	Motto, S. Ric. Com. de War.	
	The ſeal has a braid of twine round it.	
7	Henry Wyndeſor. - - - - -	26
	A bear chained, I believe.—Motto illegible.	
8	John, lord Lovell. - - - - -	30
	The ſeal is worn blank, but it has a braid of twine round it.	
9	William Botoner. - - - - -	34
	The letter W. ſurmounted by a coronet.—There is a ſmall flower on each ſide of the W.	
10	Richard Plantagenet, duke of York. - - -	21
	The arms of England, viz. 1ſt and 3d, three fleurs de lys; 2d and 4th, three lions paſſant guardant; over all a label of three points, each charged with as many torteaux.	
11	J. Bokking. - - - - - -	31, 38
	An animal.—Motto illegible.	
12	Henry Fylungley. - - - - -	42
	A flower	
13	Hugh Fenne. - - - - - -	28, Note 2
	A ſpreading tree having on one ſide the letter H, and on the other the letter f.	
14	Robert Hungerford, lord Molins. - - - -	48
	On a helmet, a griffin or wyvern, with wings diſplayed, having a flower on each ſide of the helmet.	
15	Clement Paſton. - - - - - -	52
	An eſcallop ſhell.	

EDWARD

N°		Letter.
16	Thomas Playters. - - - - - -	1
	A creſcent, ſurmounted by a fleur de lys, the motto illegible.	
17	Thomas Playters. - - - - -	2, 6
	A tree, on which ſits a bird, pecking at the branches.	
18	John Berney. - - - - -	6, 7
	In an oval, a bear paſſant, ſurrounded by a braid of twine.	
19	Henry Wyndeſor. - - - -	8
	An animal.—Motto illegible. -	
20	John Wykes. - - - - -	11
	A pair of wings conjoined.	
21	John Ruſſe. - - - - -	13
	A croſs ſtory.	
22	John Paſton, junior. - - -	15, 23, 34, 36, 87.
	A fleur de lys, with two ſmall flowers pendant, having an annulet on the dexter ſide.	
23	Sir John Paſton, knight. - - -	21, 27, 30, 43, 44, 52, 53, 57, 79, 80.
	A fleur de lys in the centre, ſurrounded by nine other fleurs de lys, each within a circle.	
24	John de Vere, earl of Oxynford. - - -	29, 37
	A dragon, or ſome other fierce animal. The top and bottom ſtrokes repreſent the thread which faſtened the letter.	
25	Margery Brews. - - - - -	73
	A flower or fruit.	
26	Elizabeth, ducheſs of Suffolk, ſiſter of Edward IV. -	App. 3.
	A roſe, on an octangular ſeal.	

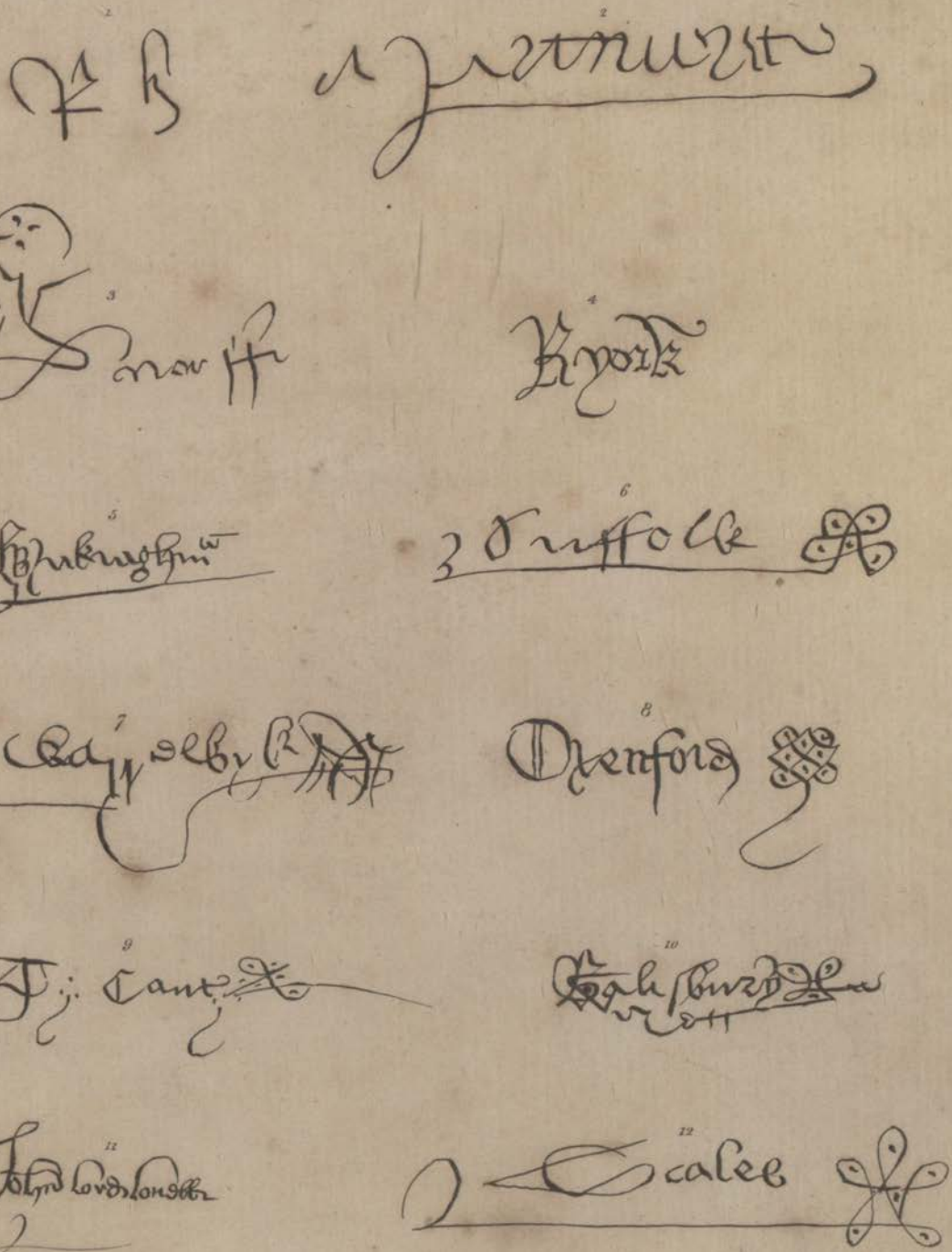
RICHARD III.

27	Margaret, counteſs of Oxynford. - - -	8
	A buſt, having the branch of a flower before it.	
28	John Fenn. - - - - -	28
	The ſeal of the editor. - - - -	Vol. 1.
	Argent on a feſs azure three eſcallop-ſhells of the 1ſt, within a bordure engrailed of the 2d.	Note 2.

FINIS.

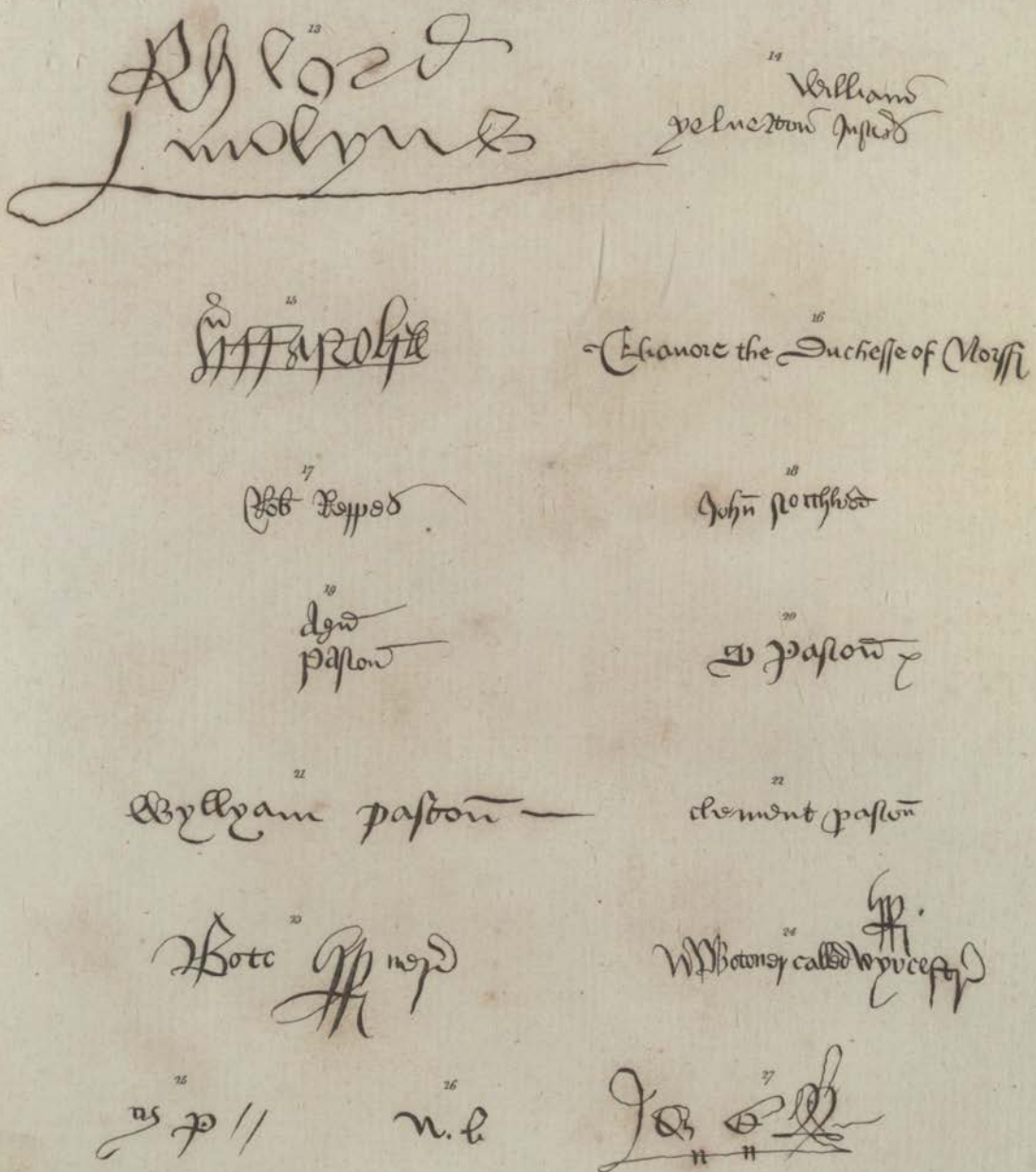
Autographs

Henry VI.—*1422.....1460.*



Autographs

Henry VI.....1422—1460.



Autographs

Henry VI. ..... *1422 — 1460.*

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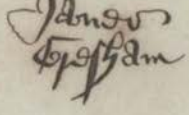

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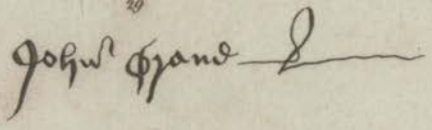

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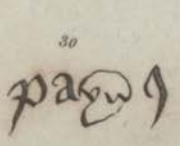

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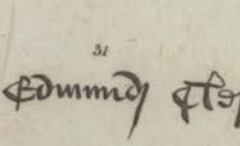

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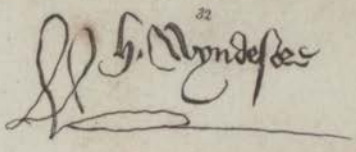

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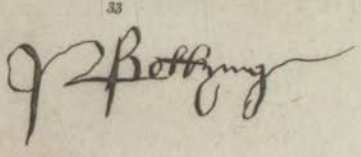

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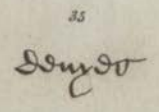

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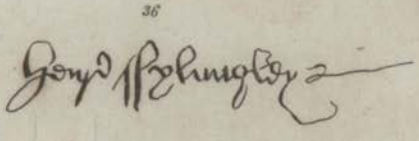

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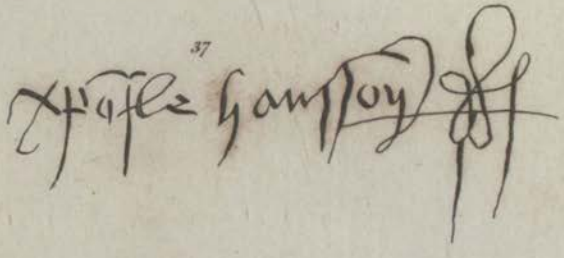

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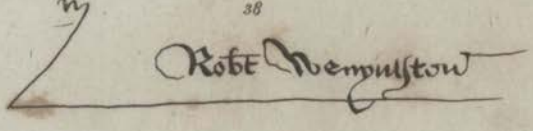

J. Penn. del.

Cook. sculp.

Autographs

Edward IV..... *1460—1483.*

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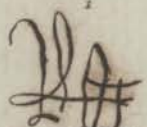

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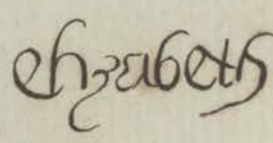

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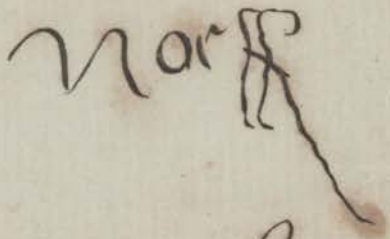

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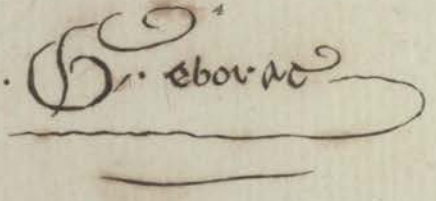

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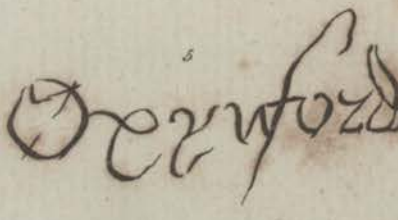

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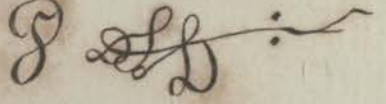

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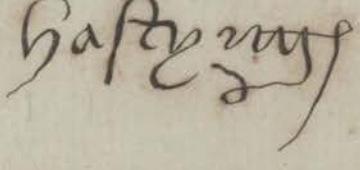

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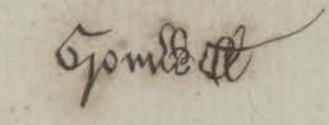

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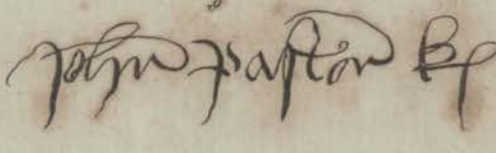

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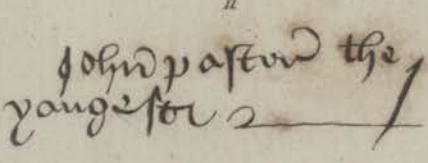

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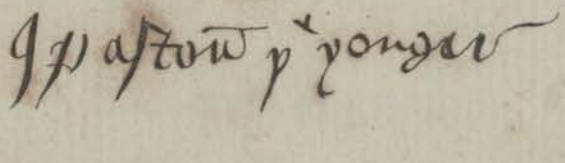

Autographs

Edward IV. ..... *1460—1483.*

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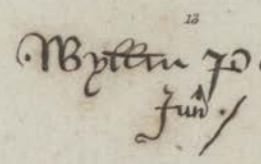

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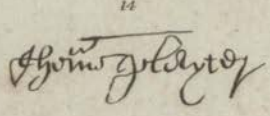

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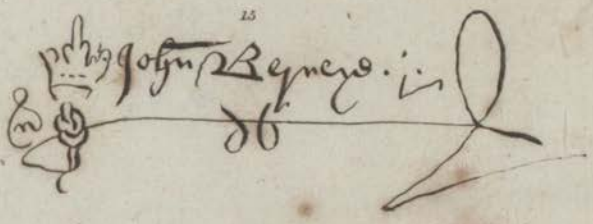

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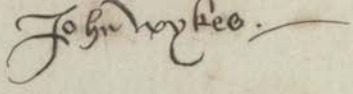

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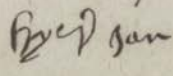

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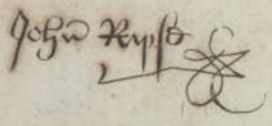

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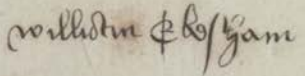

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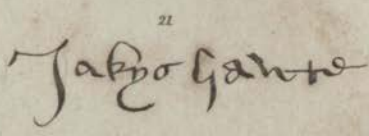

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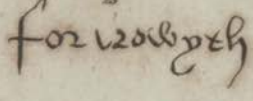

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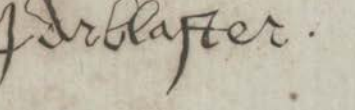

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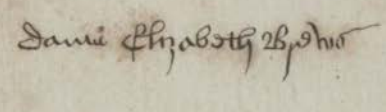

Autographs

Edward IV..... *1460—1483.*

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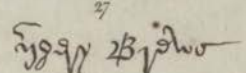

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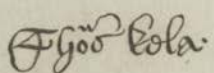

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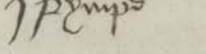

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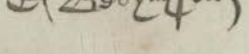

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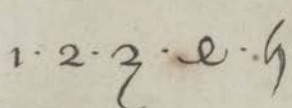

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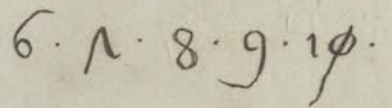

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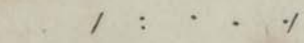

Autographs.

Richard III. ..... *1483 — 1485.*

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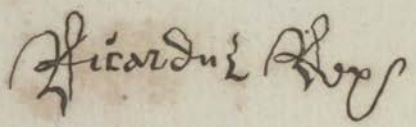

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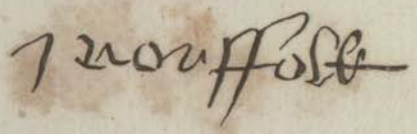

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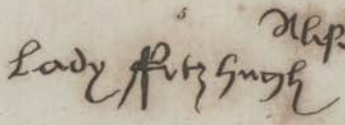

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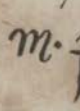

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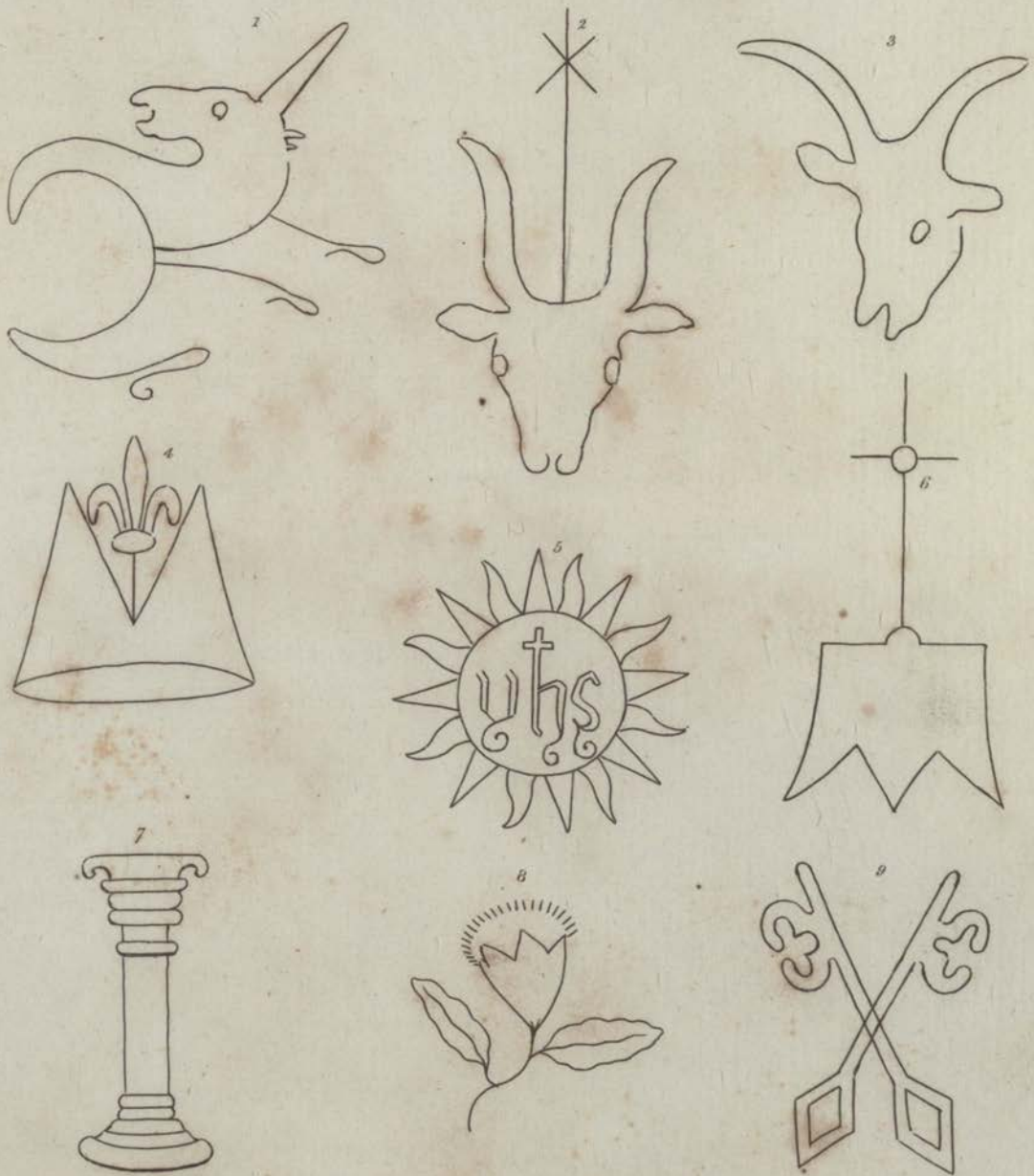
Jn.° Fenn

Paper Marks

Henry VI.....1422—1460.



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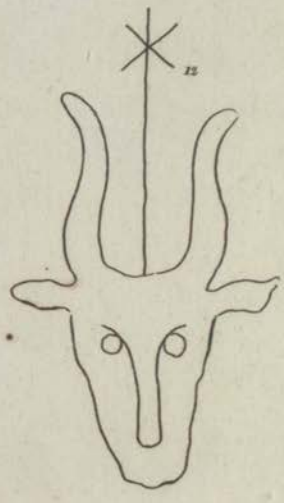
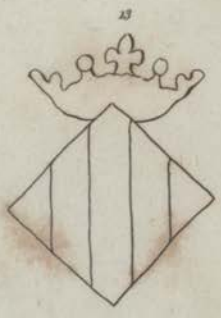
Henry VI.....1422—1460.





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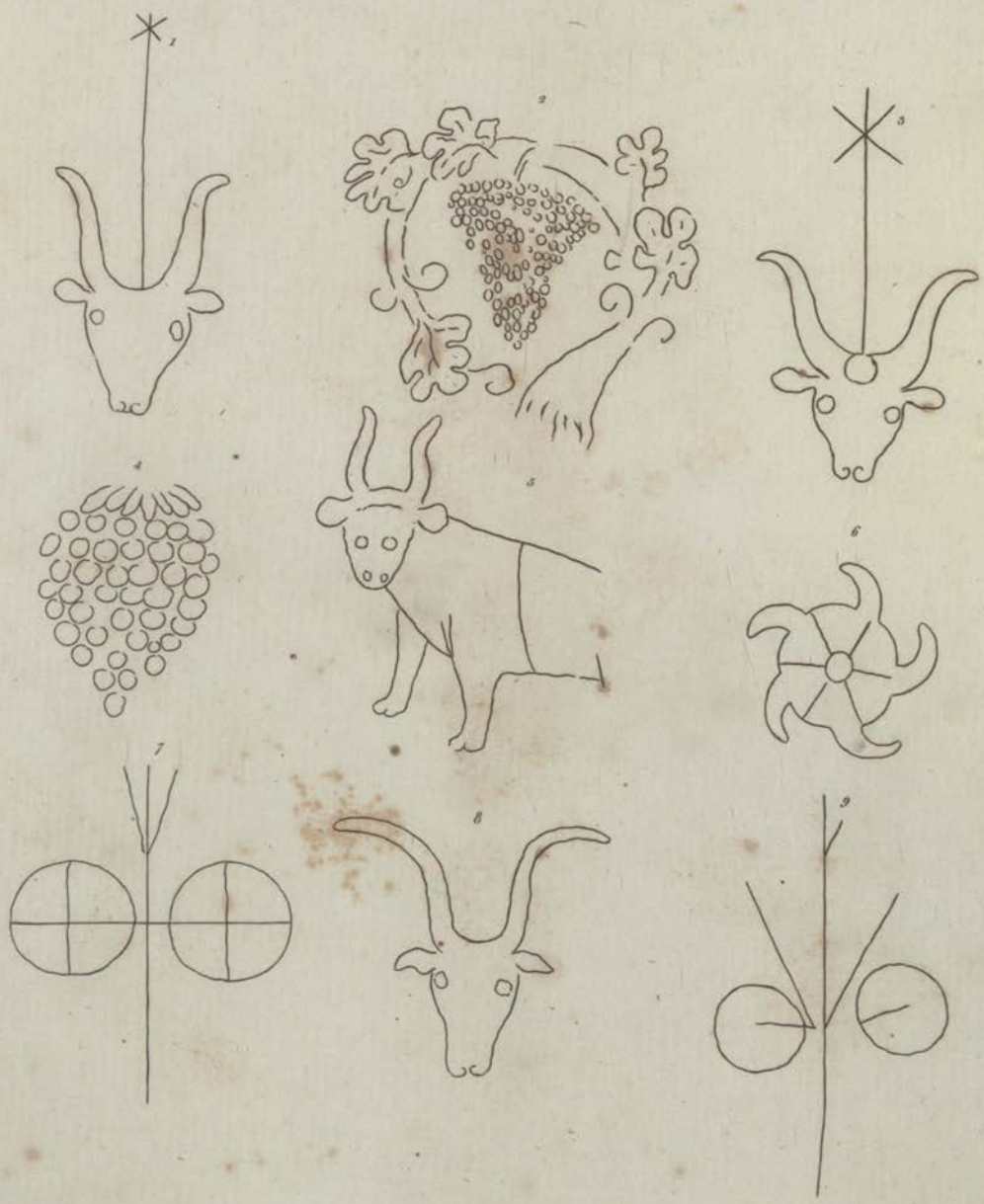
Edward IV. ..... 1460 — 1483.



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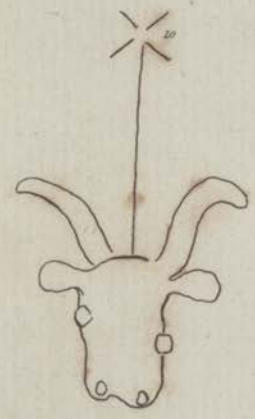
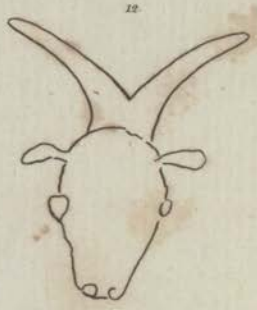
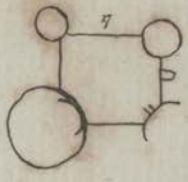
Edward IV. ..... *1460—1483.*

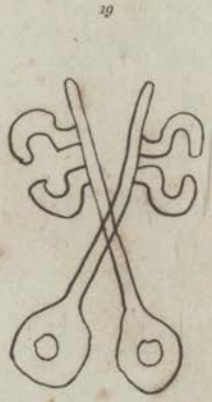


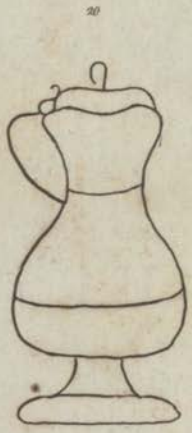




Paper Marks.

Edward IV.....1460—1483.





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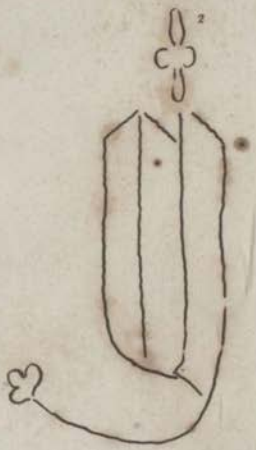
Richard III. ..... 1483 — 1485.



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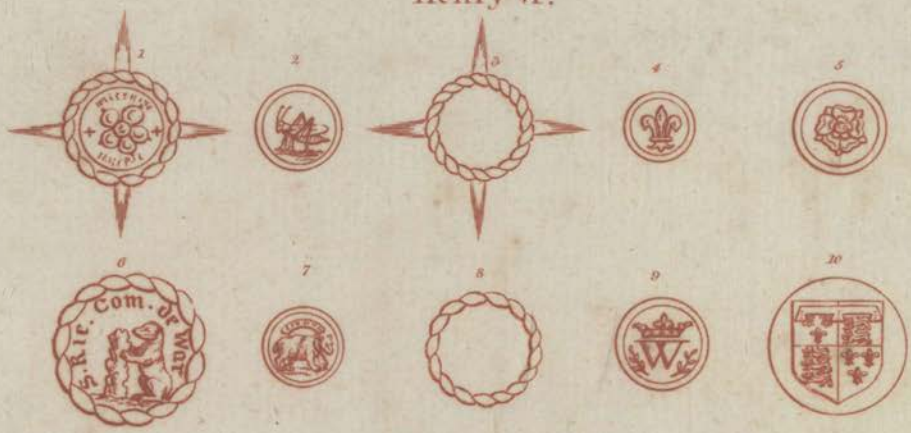
Jn. Fenn

Seals.

Henry VI.



Edward IV.

Richard III.

No. 1. *Letter* XXXVI. Vol. I. *p.* 146.

No. 2. *Letter* III. Vol. II. *p.* 392.

On to Jan Paston the Elder

Letter Duchesse Dorset

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